

**Question for written answer E-005342/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Maria Arena (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Law on 'the nation State of the Jewish people'

I am extremely concerned about the plight of minorities who do not meet the sectarian, ethnic or linguistic criteria enshrined in 'the nation State' law adopted by the Knesset.

Many in the European Union have spoken out against the law's adoption, as it gives legal backing to the division of the population of Israel into two groups: Jews and others. Israeli Arabs, who represent one-fifth of the Israeli population, have seen the official status of their language withdrawn and their right to self-determination taken away.

In view of the implications of this law, which is contrary to the European and universal principle of non-discrimination, it is worth recalling that the European Union has undertaken to base its trade relations with Israel on the premise of respect for human rights and democracy. This commitment is enshrined in Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which provides for a suspension of trade relations if these values are not respected by either one of the parties.

Does the Vice-President/High Representative (VP/HR) consider the law to be a threat to human rights and democracy?

Does the VP/HR plan to initiate a study procedure on Israel's compliance with Article 2?