

**Question for written answer E-000718/2019/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: Threats to freedom of expression in Malaysia

Since November 2018 the Malaysian Government has been taking decisions marking seriously retrograde steps in terms of human rights. The Malaysian authorities are now proposing a new law to protect the Royal Family from 'insults', with harsh punishments for those who criticise the monarchy. This amounts to clear disregard of international standards for freedom of expression, as well as violating Malaysia's own Constitution, under which freedom of expression is guaranteed.

When engaged in the regular dialogue with the Malaysian Human Rights Commission, and taking into account the negotiations for a free trade agreement, what will the EU do to draw Malaysia's attention to the need to safeguard the principle of freedom of expression and urge the Malaysian authorities to abandon their intention of treating 'insults' to the Royal Family as a criminal offence?