

**Question for written answer E-002842/2019**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 138  
**Anna Bonfrisco (ID) and Susanna Ceccardi (ID)**

Subject: VP/HR - Recent events in Hong Kong

The positions recently adopted by the Chinese central government concerning the demonstrations in Hong Kong are of concern, as are the recent words used by the Chinese Ambassador to Italy, accusing the United States of pursuing a foreign policy of intervention in its internal affairs.

The Chief Executive of the region, Carrie Lam, has described the demonstrators as destabilising and as being enemies to the welfare of Hong Kong, presenting a more serious threat than the financial crises and SARS.

As Italians and Europeans, our position must be unambiguous: respect for human rights, civil rights and political rights in China is the basis on which we can intensify and promote our mutual economic interests.

Therefore, in view of the urgency of the situation, what steps is the VP/HR taking and does she intend to take to safeguard the rights of people demonstrating peacefully in China?