

**Question for written answer E-000621/2020**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Elena Lizzi (ID)**

**Subject:** Failure of Egyptian ambassador to attend DMAS meeting

The Egyptian Ambassador was absent from the meeting of the Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries (DMAS) on 7 November 2019, even though he had been invited, because of the resolution on Egypt adopted by the European Parliament on 24 October 2019 during the plenary session in Strasbourg.

The DMAS Chair has confirmed what had been explained during the meeting with regard to the Egyptian Ambassador's absence and rightly stated that he was going to invite him, together with the other ambassadors of the Mashreq states, to future delegation meetings.

The resolution adopted by Parliament condemned the ongoing restrictions on fundamental rights in Egypt and, with reference to the murder in 2016 of the young research assistant from Friuli, Giulio Regeni, reiterated its call on the Egyptian authorities to shed light on the circumstances surrounding his death and to hold those responsible to account.

Since the reason for the Egyptian ambassador's failure to attend the DMAS meeting appears to be a strong form of protest against the European Parliament, is disrespectful towards the victims of violence in Egypt and at odds with Egypt's declared intention to shed light on the torture and murder of Giulio Regeni, can the High Representative say whether he is aware of the facts and what action he intends to take in this regard?