

**Question for written answer E-001007/2020/rev.1  
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs  
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Lars Patrick Berg** (ID)

Subject: Situation in Balochistan

Balochistan is a geographical region straddling the uplands of eastern Iran, the south of Afghanistan and the south-west of Pakistan. According to reports, the human rights situation in the region is deteriorating. In addition, the People's Republic of China is seeking to acquire mining rights there.

1. Several thousand people are said to have disappeared in recent years, often being subsequently found dead and mutilated. The identity of the murderers is unclear, with Iran's intelligence service, police and army suspected of being responsible. What is the assessment of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the human rights situation in Balochistan?
2. What action is the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy taking to improve the situation of people in Balochistan, in particular of groups such as the Zikri?
3. What is the significance and impact for the Member States of the European Union and for the local population of China's attempts to acquire rights to extract Balochistan's mineral resources, in particular natural gas?