Question for written answer E-002754/2020/rev.1

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

Rule 138

Christine Anderson (ID), Lars Patrick Berg (ID)

Subject: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation around the COVID-19/coronavirus
Pandemic

The EU has drawn up an Action Plan against Disinformation. As a result, it has employed eight staff
members in the European External Action Service (EEAS) to publish the Commission’s views on the
website www.euvsdisinfo.eu.

The article ‘Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation around the COVID-19/coronavirus
Pandemic’ criticises Chinese attempts to rewrite the history of the outbreak.

According to online reports by Der Spiegel, Chinese diplomats are said to have demonstrated their
dissatisfaction with the EU regarding publication and issued a statement that this is not very good for
China-EU cooperation.

As a result, the publication was moved to www.euvsdisinfo. The New York Times has also published
a passage listing Chinese attacks on French politicians containing the clear statement: ‘China is
running a global disinformation campaign’.

Could the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs say:

1. why has the article been amended several times;

2. whether any Chinese individuals or organisations have attempted to influence the content of the
article;

3. how trustworthy EU measures on disinformation are given that publications need to be revised
several times?