

**Question for written answer E-005304/2020/rev.1  
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs  
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Engin Eroglu (Renew)**

**Subject:** Terminology related to and classification of the grave human rights violations against the Uighur people in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region

Serious human rights violations against the Uighur people in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China have been taking place for several years now and have included arbitrary mass detention, forced labour and religious persecution. Lately, it has also come to the public's attention that the Chinese Government has engaged in a mass campaign to suppress birth rates among ethnic Uighur communities, subjecting Uighur women to forced sterilisations and other birth prevention measures. These findings suggest that China's policies against Uighurs meet one of the genocide criteria under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Despite the rapidly deteriorating situation, the terminology used by the European Union to describe the crisis has not changed substantially over the past three years. It often uses the phrase 'allegations of serious human rights violations'. Many believe this to no longer capture the increased severity and scale of the human rights violations against the Uighur people.

1. What is preventing the EU from adopting stronger and more accurate language to describe the Uighur crisis?
2. How does the Vice-President/ High Representative plan on ensuring that its terminology, when referring to the Uighur crisis, continues to reflect the gravity of the situation?
3. How can the EU independently determine whether a situation constitutes a genocide, crime against humanity or atrocity crime?