

**Question for written answer E-005385/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Gunnar Beck (ID)

Subject: Rule of law and the EU-Africa strategy

The EU says it is committed to upholding and promoting the values of democracy and the rule of law. Many governments in Africa and elsewhere fall short of these standards. Persecution or harassment of internal critics is one way in which 'less-than-perfect' governments stabilise their rule.

The EU-Africa Strategy states that population pressures within sub-Saharan Africa can partly be offset by population decline and emerging skills and labour shortages in EU economies.

1. Given the extent to which the EU facilitates emigration, in particular that of regime critics, could it be considered that the Commission is helping to stabilise undemocratic regimes whose commitment to the rule of law is somewhat questionable?
2. How does the Commission propose to ensure that the new EU-Africa partnership programmes do not reinforce the so-called 'brain-drain'?
3. How can the Commission's policies in this regard be reconciled with the African Union's own strategy and ambitions, at least on paper, to attract their diaspora back to Africa¹?

¹ African Union (AU) report, The Revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018-2027).