

Question for written answer E-006389/2020/rev.1

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

Rule 138

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Subject: EU action on the human rights violations in Xinjiang since the publication of the China Cables on 23 November 2019

One year has passed since the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists published the 'China Cables' – leaked Chinese Government documents detailing how the Communist regime oppresses, monitors and has detained over a million Muslims, in particular from the Uyghur minority in Xinjiang.

Since then, several reports about serious human rights abuses in Xinjiang detention camps have surfaced, including allegations of forced labour, forced abortions and the sterilisation of Uyghur women. Yet the EU has failed to act on these clear violations of human rights that altogether meet the international criteria of an ongoing genocide. The only reactions seem to have been 'severe condemnation' and 'addressing the allegations bilaterally and in international forums'.

1. Since the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy's comments in a letter to MEPs in August 2020 that the EU would continue 'reiterating our call on China to allow meaningful access and a conducive environment for visits by independent observers', what progress has been made towards an international investigation?
2. What concrete action has the VP/HR taken regarding the situation in Xinjiang since the publication of the China Cables?
3. Will he submit proposals for sanctions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Mechanism against individuals involved in the oppression of Uyghurs?