

Question for written answer E-003053/2021

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

Rule 138

Dietmar Köster (S&D)

Subject: Human rights situation in Bahrain

Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs met with the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) in Brussels at the beginning of February. Several non-governmental organisations requested that during the meeting, some concerns about the human rights situation in the country be raised, especially following a year in which Human Rights Watch reported that the Bahraini Government 'escalated repression' against critics¹. The informal EU-Bahrain Human Rights Dialogue originally scheduled for November 2020 has been indefinitely postponed.

1. Has the informal EU-Bahrain Human Rights Dialogue been scheduled? If so, when?
2. How does the European External Action Service intend to raise the issue of the crackdown on the political opposition and civil society in Bahrain?
3. How does the VP/HR intend to persuade the country to follow a path of taking concrete measures ensuring justice and human rights?

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/07/joint-letter-european-union-ahead-meeting-bahraini-delegation>