

Question for written answer E-003285/2021

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: The UAE's attempts to manipulate journalists' organisations in order to boycott the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar

The UAE is inciting European press associations to engage in an attack campaign against Qatar on the sidelines of Doha hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE Journalists Association, Mohammed Al Hammadi, is responsible for this smear campaign, whose only aim is to tarnish Qatar's image before it hosts the World Cup.

Al Hammadi asked the Finnish and Norwegian Journalists Federations to exercise influence on journalists unions that he supports financially to engage in the Abu Dhabi campaign and offend Qatar. He also tried to offer them financial bribes and expensive gifts in return for achieving Abu Dhabi's inflammatory goals.

What really underlies this situation is the absence of an independent press or space for dissenting voices in the UAE.

1. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) aware of the consequences that the UAE's policy on freedom of expression might have on the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar?
2. What measures is the VP/HR considering to urge the UAE to remove the sword wielded over anyone who expresses opinions on the state's internal or foreign policy?