

**Question for written answer E-003870/2021**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Filip De Man (ID)**

**Subject:** Attendance of EU diplomat at the inauguration of Ebrahim Raisi

In 2017, the Union sent the High Representative/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, to Iran to attend the formal swearing in of President Hassan Rouhani. A few days ago, the Commission sent another representative for the inauguration of the new President, Ebrahim Raisi. The EU delegate, Enrique Mora, was accorded a 'place of honour' just behind the leaders of the Hamas and Hezbollah terrorist groups. The new President himself is not exactly beyond reproach, while the hard-line Islamic regime has been mercilessly crushing its own people underfoot since the 1979 Iranian revolution and showing no qualms about launching terrorist operations abroad - including in the EU. Furthermore, Iran is an ally of China, which has recently been channelling large investments into the country.

1. Can the Commission say what it hopes to gain from sending a representative to the swearing-in ceremony?
2. In this way, it is effectively conferring legitimacy on the Iranian regime, quite possibly running counter to the foreign policy of certain Member States. Was this move approved in advance by the Council?
3. Does this mean a complete normalisation of relations between the EU and Iran?