Question for written answer E-004340/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Robert Roos (ECR)

Subject: The disturbing 'joint project' financed by the EU

The UN Human Rights Council has Special Procedures whose financing is organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as explained in a recent report of the European Centre for Law and Justice entitled 'The financing of UN experts in the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council: How UN experts are funded and influenced'.

The OHCHR accepts voluntary contributions earmarked by the donor for the benefit of a mandate or even a specific project within a mandate. The money is routed through the OHCHR and reported in its annual financial report. This type of funding is increasing significantly; it rose from USD 1 741 103 in 2011 to USD 4 040 166 in 2019.

According to the OHCHR, the EU gives hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to support a 'joint project' led by three UN experts. For example, for 2017 alone, it gave USD 637 326 for this project. The OHCHR and the three experts involved do not give any information about this 'joint project'.

1. What is the goal of this 'joint project' financed by the EU?

2. How do these hundreds of thousands of dollars spent each year pursue the interests of the EU and its citizens?