

**Question for written answer E-004550/2021/rev.1**

**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: Parliament's resolution on the death penalty in Saudi Arabia of 8 July 2021

1. In its resolution of 8 July 2021 on the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, notably the cases of Mustafa Hashem al-Darwish and Abdullah al-Howaiti, Parliament calls on Saudi Arabia to implement a moratorium on executions pending their abolition and urges Saudi Arabia to genuinely abolish the death penalty for child offenders<sup>1</sup>.

What steps has the EU taken to request Saudi Arabia to implement a moratorium on executions pending a full, independent review of cases in the criminal justice system to establish the number of capital cases which involve (a) crimes committed by children, and (b) confessions under torture and/or other fair trial violations, and to request Saudi Arabia to publish this data?

What steps has the EU taken to raise the cases of minors on death row in Saudi Arabia, including Abdullah al-Howaiti, and to call for Saudi Arabia to completely prohibit the death penalty for child defendants regardless of the category of offence?

2. The resolution strongly condemns the pattern of harsh prison sentences handed down to human rights defenders, peaceful critics and activists in Saudi Arabia.

What steps has the EU taken to raise the cases of political prisoners in Saudi Arabia who have been jailed for expressing their political opinion or exercising their right to freedom of expression?

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2021)0357.