

Question for written answer E-000669/2022

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: UAE-Italy extradition agreements: the contradictory explanation given by the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Kingdom of Belgium

At a recent hearing in Parliament, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Kingdom of Belgium said that the UAE cannot extradite dangerous Italian criminals because individual countries have not signed any agreements with it. There have been similar cases involving citizens of Spain and other European countries. This means that criminals under arrest warrants in European countries are free to move to and do business in the UAE. The case of Raffaele Imperiale is not the only one. Other famous fugitives such as Gianfranco Tulliani and Amadeo Matacena are at large in the UAE. However, the explanations given by the ambassador to Parliament conflict with the statements made by the Italian Ministry of Justice, which considers that the agreement has already been signed, as reported by the Italian press in a recent interview. The Italian authorities did all they could to facilitate the transfer of notorious politicians, businessmen and bosses by signing an agreement and then renewing the extradition treaty.

Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy aware of this situation?