

Question for written answer E-001460/2022

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: University student reprimanded during classes: the European Union upholds the freedom of Taiwan to define its own status

Over the past few days, the online media have been reporting on an occurrence at the Polytechnic University of Milan involving a Taiwanese student who was severely reprimanded by a member of the teaching staff for indicating 'Taiwan' when giving his personal details.

The lecturer then attempted to deny the very existence of the student's own country of birth and residence, maintaining that the European Union considered Taiwan to be part of the People's Republic of China and that no European country publicly recognised it as an independent nation.

As well as being a bulwark of freedom and democracy, Taiwan is of great strategic importance both in military terms and in the field of international politics, especially in the Indo-Pacific.

In view of this:

1. Can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy clarify the above situation and say whether he considers it necessary to take steps to prevent similar instances of discrimination against Taiwanese citizens in the future?
2. Can he give details regarding the role of Taiwan in maintaining peace and security in the Pacific area and say how the European Union intends to encourage its participation in international organisations and activities?
3. Can he explain how the European Union plans to forge closer ties with the Government of Taiwan?