

**Question for written answer E-001867/2022**

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

Rule 138

**Tomas Tobé (PPE)**

**Subject:** Sanctions on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Leadership

The Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) has advocated the removal of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from the US List of Foreign Terrorist Organizations as a 'middle way' to end the deadlock in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiations.

The IRGC have had a direct role in severe violations of human rights, including the killing, torture and repression of the Iranian people. Indeed, leading figures of the IRGC were sanctioned by the EU in 2021 for their participation in the decision to use 'lethal force to suppress the November 2019 protests in Iran, causing the deaths of and injuries to unarmed protesters and other civilians in many cities across the country'.

1. In the context of the JCPOA negotiations, has the VP/HR called for the lifting of EU sanctions on the IRGC leadership despite them 'bear[ing] responsibility for serious human rights violations in Iran'?
2. If so, does the VP/HR consider lifting these sanctions to be in line with the EU's foreign policy interests?