

Question for written answer E-002705/2022

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

Rule 138

Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI), Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), Clara Ponsatí Obiols (NI)

Subject: Statements from the future EU Ambassador to China and their compatibility with the EU's position on China

Spanish diplomat Jorge Toledo will take office as EU Ambassador to China on 1 September 2022¹. In a recent interview², Toledo stated that the 'EU strategy defines China as a partner'. When asked about the definition of China as a systemic rival, Toledo replied that the EU and China 'are societies with very different values and political systems'.

Regarding Taiwan, Toledo claimed that 'the EU defends the pacific reunification' of Taiwan with China. He described the human rights situation in China as 'not the best but not the worst', despite several reports of the massive internment of Uyghurs in detention camps in the country³.

The EU's Strategic Compass⁴ states that China seeks to promote its own standards globally, while displaying hybrid tactics and posing a threat to global security. Furthermore, the EU has never called for the full reunification of Taiwan with China and remains committed to defending human rights.

In this context, we ask the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP / HR):

1. Does the VP / HR consider the views of Jorge Toledo to be representative of the EU's position on China?
2. Will the VP / HR reassess the appointment of Toledo as EU Ambassador to China?

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eeas-high-representative-josep-borrell-announces-senior-appointments-3_en

² <https://www.lavanguardia.com/internacional/20220717/8402380/necesitamos-china-gobernar-mundo.html>

³ <https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-cables/xinjiang-police-files-uyghur-mugshots-detention/>

⁴ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/strategic_compass_en3_web.pdf