

Question for written answer E-003856/2022

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

Rule 138

Brando Benifei (S&D), Pierfrancesco Majorino (S&D), Pina Picierno (S&D), Massimiliano Smeriglio (S&D), Alessandra Moretti (S&D), Pietro Bartolo (S&D), Irene Tinagli (S&D), Franco Roberti (S&D), Camilla Laureti (S&D)

Subject: Serious LGBTQIA+ rights situation in Qatar

The FIFA World Cup 2022, being held in Qatar, is revealing the serious discrimination suffered by LGBTQIA+ people there. Homosexuality is a crime in Qatar and extra-marital relations, including homosexual relations, are punishable by up to seven years in prison.

A report published in October 2021 by Human Rights Watch entitled '*Qatar: Security Forces Arrest, Abuse LGBT People*' describes and condemns the serious violence against, and imprisonment of, members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Qatar.

On 8 November 2022, Khalid Salman, a FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 ambassador, described homosexuality as 'damage in the mind' and said that being gay was 'forbidden'. The Qatari authorities have yet to make any real apology or comments about these unacceptable statements.

In view of this worrying situation:

1. Can the VP/HR say what measures it has taken or intends to take to ensure that the rights of the LGBTQIA + community in Qatar are respected?
2. Has the VP/HR considered recalling the EU Ambassador to Qatar?

Submitted: 28.11.2022