

**Question for written answer E-003924/2022  
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU to appoint special envoy to the Gulf

Last February, the High Representative announced to Parliament his intention of appointing a new special envoy to the Gulf. More recently, this intention was confirmed by the envoy himself<sup>1</sup> and the President of the Commission<sup>2</sup>

According to recent press leaks<sup>3</sup>, candidates for the post were to be assessed by a group of independent experts. One of those applying is Luigi Di Maio, who was foreign minister of Italy between September 2019 and October 2022. He holds a secondary school diploma, is a freelance journalist and has held political office since 2013<sup>4</sup>.

There are currently nine special envoys, six men and three women, supporting the work of the High Representative<sup>5</sup>.

The EEAS requires candidates to have at least a university degree and three to six years' relevant experience<sup>6</sup>.

1. In view of this, does the Council not take the view that prospective special envoys should be required to meet a set of minimum requirements in terms of qualifications and professional experience in the region concerned?
2. On what criteria does it intend to decide on the appointment of the new EU special envoy? Do these criteria include gender balance?

**Supporter<sup>7</sup>**

Submitted: 5.12.2022

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<sup>1</sup> at the meeting with the Gulf Cooperation Council on 22 September 2022: [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gcc-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-met-leadership-gulf-cooperation-council\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gcc-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-met-leadership-gulf-cooperation-council_en)

<sup>2</sup> This was also confirmed in a keynote address delivered on the occasion of the IISS Manama Dialogue. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_22\\_7013](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_22_7013)

<sup>3</sup> In this connection, he has been the subject of an article in the Repubblica newspaper: [https://www.repubblica.it/politica/2022/11/14/news/di\\_maio\\_inviato\\_ue\\_golfo\\_persico\\_gasparri\\_interrogazione-374517867/](https://www.repubblica.it/politica/2022/11/14/news/di_maio_inviato_ue_golfo_persico_gasparri_interrogazione-374517867/)

<sup>4</sup> His profile on the Foreign Ministry website is also relevant here: [https://www.esteri.it/it/ministero/struttura/il\\_mae/ministri\\_esteri/luigi-di-maio/](https://www.esteri.it/it/ministero/struttura/il_mae/ministri_esteri/luigi-di-maio/)

<sup>5</sup> Some of them have as much as 25 years of experience in their respective regions, as indicated available on the EEAS website. [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-special-representatives\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-special-representatives_en)

<sup>6</sup> For instance: [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/political-assistant-office-secretary-general-%E2%80%93-eeassgoffice\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/political-assistant-office-secretary-general-%E2%80%93-eeassgoffice_en)

<sup>7</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)