

Question for written answer E-003958/2022
to the Council
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Council President's visit to China

On 1 December 2022, European Council President Charles Michel visited the Communist People's Republic of China, where he met with President Xi Jinping and other Communist Party dignitaries. During that visit, Charles Michel made some noteworthy statements, raising the question of whether he is well versed in international politics.

1. What mandate did the 27 Member States give the Council President for this visit to the People's Republic of China?
2. The President stated there that both the Union and the People's Republic of China have an interest in a 'rules-based world with the UN Charter at its core'. China is known to abide by no trade or other rules and also flouts human rights, rights which are cherished in the Union. What concrete commitments has the President received from China in this regard?
3. The President also confirmed the European Union's adherence to the 'one China' principle. Given Taiwan's recent opening of a representation in Vilnius, it is not certain that there is still unanimity within the Union on this principle. Did the Council President have an explicit mandate to raise this issue?

Submitted: 6.12.2022