

**Question for written answer E-001332/2023**

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

Rule 138

**Marco Zanni** (ID)

Subject: EU Special Representative for the Gulf

According to press reports, on Friday, 21 April 2023, Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell sent a letter to the 27 ambassadors of the Member States to the European Union to propose former Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio for the position of EU Special Representative for the Gulf.

The future special representative will be called upon to play a crucial role in mediation and diplomacy in an unstable area with fragile geopolitical balances.

When he was Minister for Foreign Affairs, Luigi Di Maio repeatedly provoked diplomatic incidents with countries in the Gulf.

It follows from the answer to question E-003982/2022<sup>1</sup> that he may receive an AD14-15 salary.

In the light of the above:

1. What applications were received for the role in question?
2. Does Luigi Di Maio's appointment as Special Representative conform with the criteria laid down in the EU Staff Regulations for the grade that he would be assigned?
3. How does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to reconcile this proposal with the request in the EU budget for the 2023 financial year that, for item 14 04 02 'European Union Special Representatives' (EUSRs), the appointment of women should be favoured, bearing in mind that at present six out of nine EUSRs are men<sup>2</sup>?

Submitted: 24.4.2023

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-003982-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-003982-ASW_EN.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-special-representatives\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-special-representatives_en)