Question for written answer E-002216/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), **Antoni Comín i Oliveres** (NI)

Subject: Hong Kong arrest warrants for overseas democracy activists

On 3 July 2023 the Hong Kong Police issued arrest warrants under the National Security Law for eight individuals living outside Hong Kong, and placed bounties of HKD 1 million on each of their heads[1][2].

The National Security Law, which is widely seen as a Beijing-backed tool of suppression in Hong Kong, was imposed on 30 June 2020 after months of pro-democracy protests had engulfed the city. Chinese and Hong Kong authorities say the law was necessary to restore stability to the territory but critics say that it infringes free expression[3]. The law grants the authorities sweeping extraterritorial powers to prosecute actions or comments that it deems criminal[4] taking place anywhere in the world.

The UK foreign secretary, the Australian foreign minister and the US State Department have already condemned the move, the latter stating it to be 'a dangerous precedent that threatens the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people all over the world.'[5]

1. What is the Commission's view on the eight arrest warrants issued by the Hong Kong authorities?

2. Does the Commission intend to call on Beijing to repeal the National Security Law and for the Hong Kong authorities to end their targeting of people who stand up for freedom and democracy?

Submitted:14.7.2023

---

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-hong-kong-national-security-law-arrest-warrants
[2] https://lawcouncil.au/media/law-council-concern-regarding-arrest-warrants-issued-for-hong-kong-pro-democracy-activists
[3] https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/03/hong-kong-issues-arrest-warrants-for-eight-overseas-democracy-activists
[4] https://www.reuters.com/world/china/hong-kong-police-issue-arrest-warrants-eight-activists-2023-07-03/
[5] https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/03/hong-kong-issues-arrest-warrants-for-eight-overseas-democracy-activists