

**Question for oral answer O-000039/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the S&D Group

**Ulrike Lunacek, Rebecca Harms, Heidi Hautala**  
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

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Cornelia Ernst, Merja Kyllönen, Rina Ronja Kari, Marina Albiol Guzmán, Gabriele Zimmer**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**Marietje Schaake**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**Ian Duncan**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

Subject: VP/HR - Implementation of the Council's LGBTI Guidelines, particularly in relation to the persecution of (perceived) homosexual men in Chechnya, Russia

The EU LGBTI Guidelines prescribe a pro-active approach for EU Delegations, and for the national embassies of the Member States, with regard to the promotion of LGBTI rights.

*Novaya Gazeta*, a Russian newspaper, recently reported that at least 100 men have been detained in Chechnya, Russia, on suspicion of being gay, and have suffered severe torture and humiliation in unofficial prisons. At least three men have been reported killed. Many remain detained in prisons where they face torture and inhumane treatment in horrific conditions. Regional authorities have denied these allegations, and have responded by inciting further hatred against (perceived) homosexuals. National Russian authorities continue to ignore these facts.

Recently, the legal situation, and/or the lived reality, of LGBTI people has worsened considerably in a number of other countries as well, including Nigeria, Uganda, Egypt, Chad and Indonesia.

What action has the EEAS taken in the specific case of Chechnya, and have LGBTI organisations been consulted in the process? Has the EEAS raised this matter with the relevant Russian authorities in order to ensure legal and physical protection for the victims, as well as for the human rights defenders and journalists who have drawn attention to this issue?

What is the EEAS doing to ensure that the Council's LGBTI Guidelines are applied coherently and consistently across different countries?

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Forwarded: 10.5.2017

Deadline for reply: 17.5.2017