

**Question for written answer P-010686/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Isabelle Durant (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - European Union financing of the census in Mauritania

I have heard that the census in Mauritania, now under way, is being conducted with financial assistance from the European Union. The Vice-President / High Representative will be aware of the host of criticisms of the census, however, as it is regarded as highly discriminatory towards Mauritania's black population groups. The International Federation for Human Rights and the Mauritanian Human Rights Association are also highly concerned at the recent violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators from the movement 'Touche pas à ma nationalité' ('Hands off my nationality') and are calling on the Mauritanian authorities to restore calm quickly.

Could the Vice-President / High Representative confirm and give a detailed account of any European Union involvement, whether financial or organisational, in the ongoing census in Mauritania?

In addition, is the Vice-President / High Representative monitoring the situation in Mauritania, and is she aware of the demands of the 'Touche pas à ma nationalité' movement? Has the Vice-President / High Representative taken action, or will she do so, in order to prompt the Mauritanian authorities to bring peace to the situation and condemn their discriminatory practices towards the black population groups?