

**Question for written answer P-001638/2019**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Francisco Assis (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Brunei's new penal code

On 3 April, a Sharia-based penal code came into force in Brunei. This penal code provides for myriad archaic punishments that violate the most fundamental principles of international human rights law, for one, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, from the right to life to its outright ban on cruel or inhuman punishments. The new code imposes stoning to death for offences of adultery, anal sex and abortion; limb amputation for theft; and a penalty of 100 lashings for lesbian sex. These punishments are to be inflicted on both Muslims and non-Muslims, teenagers, and even children above the age of seven.

The EU is in the process of negotiating a partnership and cooperation agreement with Brunei, whose trade with countries in the single market amounts to hundreds of millions of euros every year. As the global leader in the promotion and protection of human rights, will the EU immediately halt any ongoing efforts to complete the above agreement, and, more generally, any kind of cooperation with Brunei until this inhuman penal code has been repealed?