

**Priority question for written answer P-004908/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Human rights conditionality in EU funding to Egypt

Under the general conditions annexed to the financing agreements under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the Commission may suspend a financing agreement if the beneficiary breaches an obligation relating to respect for human rights, democratic principles or the rule of law and in serious cases of corruption (Article 26.1). In 2019, Egypt dropped a number of ENI-funded projects, reportedly because it refused to abide by this article and, consequently, this funding was not disbursed.

1. Given that this funding will not be spent on account of Egypt's refusal to sign the agreement, is the Commission planning a re-allocation, and if so, how will it ensure that Article 26.1 is not circumvented, including for 2019 and 2020 funds?
2. Considering the sharp deterioration of human rights in Egypt, will the Commission use this funding to support independent civil society, in line with the 2013 Council conclusions on Egypt, and the European Parliament's resolution on Egypt of October 2019 and the opinion of its Foreign Affairs Committee on the guidelines for the 2021 budget?
3. What are the indicators pertaining to human rights, democracy and corruption that the Commission would consider, in relation to Egypt, to trigger Article 26.1 and suspend a financing agreement?