

**Priority question for written answer P-005407/2021/rev.1**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs**  
**and Security Policy**  
Rule 138  
**Ernest Urtasun** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Statements by made by Nasser Al-Khater and LGBTI+ rights at the Qatar World Cup

Amnesty International has described Qatar's Football World Cup 2022 as 'the World Cup of Shame'. The far-reaching and well-documented allegations of corruption and the flagrant breaches of the rights of the migrants who helped build the stadia<sup>1</sup> are now being compounded by a serious threat posed to the rights and freedoms of the LGBTI+ community. In a recent interview with CNN, Nasser Al-Khater, head of the Qatar World Cup 2022 organising committee, stated that 'homosexuality is not permitted' in Qatar and warned the LGBTI+ community against any public displays of affection. Under Article 285 of the Qatari Criminal Code, homosexuality is punishable by up to seven years' imprisonment. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has also warned of the risk of reprisals being taken against locals once the World Cup is over<sup>2</sup>.

In the light of this situation:

1. What steps will the VP/HR take to defend the rights and freedoms of the LGBTI+ community during and after the Qatar World Cup?
2. Will the VP/HR be formally asking the Qatari regime to repeal Article 285 of its Criminal Code?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-7-2013-0517\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-7-2013-0517_EN.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/24/lgbt-qataris-call-foul-ahead-2022-world-cup>