

**Priority question for written answer P-002622/2022
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Jaak Madison (ID)

Subject: Cancellation of the visit of Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) to Israel and Palestine

A visit by the DROI Committee to Israel and Palestine was cancelled at short notice after the 'EU ambassador' in Israel was told verbally on the phone that the participation of some MEPs was not desired by Israel.

No evidence in accordance with international law and diplomatic protocol was provided for the Israeli Foreign Ministry's refusal to receive MEPs in an official European Parliament mission.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry did not inform the President of the European Parliament in any way, with the usual diplomatic notes, about those MEPs who were not welcome in Israel.

The official European Parliament programme also included paying a visit on Parliament's behalf to the terrorist Marwan Barghouti, convicted and imprisoned by Israel on charges of multiple murder.

1. What rules does the European External Action Service (EEAS) use to protect the dignity and reputation of MEPs who are prevented from exercising their mandate by governments of third countries, such as Israel, through 'telephone warnings'?
2. Should the 'EU Ambassador' not have insisted that the Foreign Ministry draft an official diplomatic note as usual, rather than making public the intransparent undocumented telephone call, which damages MEPs' reputation?
3. Is the EEAS aware that the Chair of the DROI Committee, Ms Maria Arena, wanted to officially visit the murderer Marwan Barghouti on behalf of the European Parliament, and what information does the 'EU Embassy in Israel' have on this?