

**Priority question for written answer P-001700/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: Appointment of Luigi di Maio as EU Special Representative for the Gulf region: request for Commission clarification on selection criteria and requirements

The green light given by the Council on the morning of 15 May 2023 officially sealed Luigi di Maio's appointment as EU Special Representative for the Gulf region.

Approval was granted, at the proposal of the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, without debate at the start of a meeting of the 'Education, Youth, Culture and Sport' Council in Brussels.

Di Maio's candidacy was championed by the previous government, but his appointment does not have the backing of the current Italian administration. In the past, one of his tweets famously sparked tensions with Abu Dhabi, which ordered Italian forces out of the Al Minhad airbase.

Despite the appointment, there are various concerns throughout the institutions as to whether the candidate measures up to this extremely challenging role.

In view of this, can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following questions:

1. Who were the shortlisted candidates? What were the main criteria used during the CV selection?
2. Under which instruments is the EU Special Representative for the Gulf region to provide support to, and cooperate with, the Council and the Commission to help ensure consistency of the EU's external action in the region?

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