

**Question for written answer E-003915/2021/rev.1**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** The imminent backlash against women's rights in Afghanistan

Following the collapse of the Afghan Government and the advance of the Taliban, hundreds of civilians are trying to leave the country for fear of reprisals and a more than likely increase in violence in the coming months. In particular, women and girls are at extreme risk of having their rights curtailed, as happened under the Taliban regime in the 1990s.

The EU-Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development encompasses the promotion of human rights, gender equality and the involvement of civil society, and includes respect for democratic principles and for the principles of human rights and the rule of law.

How will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) ensure that the agreement is enforced and what measures does it envisage if the agreement is not complied with?

What is the VP/HR's assessment of the Joint Declaration on Migration Cooperation with Afghanistan in the light of these new developments? What will the role of the EU be regarding the international protection of Afghans who are fleeing the country, especially Afghan women who have taken a stand for gender equality?