

Question for written answer E-001241/2022

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: Extension and amendment of the sanctions framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

On 18 March 2022, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2022/450¹, prolonging the existing sanctions framework for individuals undermining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitutional order of BiH or the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The Decision establishes that restrictive measures against individuals under this framework are taken on the basis of unanimity, thereby deviating from the Council's Sanctions Guidelines².

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) agree that this deviation sets a bad precedent and a disincentive for local interlocutors in BiH, given the current political crisis in the country, and has the VP/HR and/or the European External Action Service (EEAS) actively advised Member States to keep qualified majority voting as a basis for the decision to add individuals to the Annex?
2. In the light of the statement³ by the EEAS on 10 February concluding that an unacceptable violation of the constitutional and legal order of BiH had taken place, is the VP/HR planning to initiate restrictive measures against those responsible for the creation of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council under the new framework? If not, why not, and what criteria are applied?
3. Has the legal service of the Council given its opinion on this deviation from the existing Sanctions Guidelines and can this opinion be shared with Parliament?

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2022.091.01.0022.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A091%3ATOC

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5664-2018-INIT/en/pdf>

³ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/110802/bosnia-and-herzegovina-statement-spokesperson-vote-republika-srpska_en