

**Question for written answer E-016018/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Csaba Sógor (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Vietnam's draft law on religion and belief

In April 2015, Vietnam's Government Committee for Religious Affairs made public a draft law on religion and belief, which is likely to be passed in 2016. Several religious communities, as well as a number of National Assembly deputies, have called for the draft law to be revised to comply with international standards, amidst criticism that the current draft continues the policy of making the full exercise of religious freedom dependent on government recognition and registration.

In its answer to Written Question E-007726/12, the Commission stated that: 'As a universal human right, Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) is a high priority under EU's human rights policy' and emphasised that the EU delegations have been requested to monitor the state of FoRB in their respective countries.

In light of this statement:

Has the European External Action Service / EU Delegation been able to discuss the new draft law with the Vietnamese authorities?

What other measures does the EU plan to take to encourage and support efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief in Vietnam?