

Question for written answer E-016031/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - Internet censorship and repression in China

Speaking at the second World Internet Conference, held this week, the Chinese president Xi Jinping defended censorship. Two days before, at the trial of the activist Pu Zhiqiang, the Chinese authorities had cracked down on journalists and demonstrators gathered outside the court, while European diplomats seeking to attend the trial were refused access.

The Chinese authorities have stepped up censorship over the past year through legislation such as the cybersecurity law and the development of software which violates users' privacy, while the persecution of human rights activists has increased.

In the light of these events, and bearing in mind the potential role that the internet and social networks play in exercising the right to freedom of expression and the free exchange of information:

1. What strategy will the VP/HR adopt in order to safeguard the EU's interests, objectives and values with regard to global internet governance?
2. What practical steps will the EEAS take with a view to offering advice and software designed to prevent the censorship of Chinese activists, and what action will it take in response to the calls made in the European Parliament's resolution 2014/2232(INI)?
3. Will the VP/HR demand a response from the Chinese authorities in relation to the incidents that occurred at Pu Zhiqiang's trial, which involved several European journalists and diplomats?