EN E-002236/2022 Reply (19.9.2022)

As stated in the Council Conclusions on EU Priorities in UN Human Rights Fora in 2022¹, the EU remains seriously concerned about the numerous reports of widespread human rights violations and abuses in China, in particular in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The situation of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities across China, notably Uighurs and persons belonging to other minorities, remains of particular concern.

The EU will continue to call upon China to comply with its human rights obligations under national and international law.

On 22 March 2021, the Council imposed restrictive measures on four Chinese individuals and one entity in China under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (EUGHRSR)².

Any further decisions to designate persons or entities are for the Council to take, acting by unanimity. The process of preparing, discussing and adopting such decisions in the Council is confidential.

The Council is not yet in a position to foresee which points covered in the European Parliament's resolution of 9 June 2022 may be on the agenda of the next Foreign Affairs Council.

¹ 5277/22.

 ² Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/481 of 22 March 2021 amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses, OJ L 99 I, 22.3.2021, p. 25.

The Honourable Members are invited to refer to the G7 Leaders' Communiqué of 28 June 2022, which stated that: 'We are gravely concerned about the human rights situation in China. We will continue to promote universal values, including by calling on China to respect universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including in Tibet and in Xinjiang where forced labour is of major concern to us'³.

The EU intends to continue to play a leading role in the G7 and G20 to promote and defend its values globally.

³ G7 Leaders' Communiqué - Executive summary and Full communiqué: <u>https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/28/g7-leaders-communique/</u>