Question for written answer E-002674/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: China's refoulement of DPRK escapees, and the situation of detainees in the DPRK

In October 2023, as part of its practices of mass repatriation, China deported hundreds of North Korean escapees who, once back in their country, were subjected to torture, ill-treatment and 'forced abortions and infanticide against repatriated mothers and their children'[1].

Opinion No 37/2024 by the UN Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concerning one of these North Korean escapees, Kim Cheol-ok, states that such repatriation practices constitute an 'arbitrary deprivation of liberty' and urges both China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to take steps to address the issue.

1. Will the EU ask China to uphold its obligations with regard to non-refoulement of DPRK escapees, in view of the suffering they have to endure once back in the DPRK?

2. In any future interaction with the DPRK, will the EU raise the above-mentioned case together with the cases of the three South Korean missionaries detained for over ten years, Kim Jung-wook, Kim Kook-kie and Choi Chun-gil, and call for their release?

3. Will the EU consider specifying the above-mentioned cases in the upcoming draft annual resolution on human rights in the DPRK at the UN Human Rights Council, as they did on three occasions for detainees held by the Myanmar junta?[2]

Submitted: 27.11.2024

[1] https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FC.3%2F79%2FL.34&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False.

[2] Resolutions adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 23 March 2018, on 22 March 2019, and on 22 June 2020.