(English version)

Question for written answer E-001067/26
to the Commission
Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE)
(16 March 2026)

Subject: Taking account of human rights in the partnership between the European Union and Senegal

The European Union maintains a close partnership with Senegal which is primarily reflected in significant cooperation and EU funding that aims to support development, democratic governance and the upholding of human rights.

Yet Senegal has recently passed a law which further criminalises homosexuality, including sentences of up to 10 years' imprisonment and penalties for 'promoting' homosexuality.

This development has caused serious concern about the situation of LGBTQIA+ people in the country. In its analyses of the partnership with Senegal, the Commission has in fact noted that Senegalese legislation does not always fully meet human rights standards.

1. What steps has the European Union taken or does it plan to take as part of its dialogue with the Senegalese authorities to promote respect for the rights of LGBTQIA+ people?

2. When reviewing the Multiannual Financial Framework and discussing future partnerships for the EU, how does the Commission intend to take account of this recent legal development in the continued partnership between the European Union and Senegal?

Submitted: 16.3.2026

Answer given by Mr Síkela on behalf of the European Commission
(12 May 2026)

The EU took note of the adoption of the law amending Article 319 of the Senegalese Penal Code, which increases the penalties for consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex.

The EU is committed to promoting the full and equal enjoyment of human rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, plus (LGBTIQ+) persons internationally and reiterate its support for the universal decriminalisation of consensual same-sex relations, as stated in the Council conclusions on the EU's human rights priorities for 2026 ([1]).

The EU does so by taking into account the local realities in which human rights defenders advance their struggle in line with the EU guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by LGBTI persons ([2]).

The EU Delegation in Dakar holds a bilateral dialogue to address human rights issues and is regularly in contact with national authorities, and other relevant stakeholders, to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including the rights of LGBTIQ people.

The EU also acts in accordance with the principle of 'do no harm'. Experience shows that public statements can sometimes increase stigmatisation and expose vulnerable communities to increased risk.

The EU will continue to engage with the authorities, raise human rights issues and express concerns regarding this new legislation as part of the regular partnership dialogues and through the appropriate diplomatic channels.

The partnership between the EU and Senegal is based on mutual respect, promoting protection and fulfilment of human rights, and dialogue.

EU's extensive partnership with Senegal is a leverage that enables the EU to maintain an open and frank exchange with the Senegalese authorities.

([1]) https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5835-2026-INIT/en/pdf.
([2]) https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/07_hr_guidelines_lgbti_en.pdf.