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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.1.2021)

The EU has expressed clearly and repeatedly its position on Tibet, in multilateral fora, public debates, as well as in bilateral contacts with Chinese interlocutors.

At the Item 4 General Debate of the last session of the Human Rights Council, the EU reiterated the ‘call on China to uphold its national and international obligations, and to respect human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet.’ Most recently, the EU’s concerns were conveyed to the Chinese leadership at the EU-China Summit on 22 June 2020 and the EU-China leaders’ meeting on 14 September 2020. In the framework of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, the EU has consistently expressed concerns about severe restrictions on freedom of religion or belief and the right to make decisions about education in a minority language in Tibet and more generally in China, as well as arbitrary arrests, detentions and disappearances of citizens of Tibetan descent. The recent reports alleging the use of mass labour transfer schemes targeting Tibetans add to the concerns already expressed by the EU.