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Answer given by High Representative / Vice-President Borrell
(3.4.2020)

The European Union has regularly raised its concerns on restrictions on freedom of religion or belief and has called on China to respect the rights of persons belonging to minorities especially in Xinjiang and Tibet. This position was expressed publicly in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)¹ and in the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee², and was also raised bilaterally in contacts with Chinese authorities.

In the framework of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, the European Union has consistently expressed the expectation that China will respect the succession of the Dalai Lama in accordance with Tibetan Buddhism norms. This position was also recalled during the past meeting on 1 April 2019. The European Union will continue to express its position on this matter.

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67454/hrc42-eu-statement-item-4human-rights-situations-require-councils-attention_en

² https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/69176/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-united-nations-3rd-committee-promotion-and-protection-human-rights-fundamental_en