

Brussels, 11 November 2021

To the President of the European Commission, the High Representative/Vice-President of the European Commission, the Commissioner for Home Affairs,

Dear Ms. von der Leyen,  
Dear M. Borrell,  
Dear Ms. Johansson,

We are writing to you regarding the forthcoming election of the President of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol). It is critical that this process occurs with the utmost reliability, given its importance and impact on Interpol's credibility as a whole.

The European Union is the main donor to Interpol's inter-judicial cooperation programs. Indeed, in 2020, excluding compulsory contributions from Member States, the European Union was the largest voluntary contributor to the Interpol budget. It is incumbent on European institutions to ensure its economic contributions are used in a way that strengthens human rights, rather than weakens them.

The EU and its Member States should ensure that whoever is elected to lead an important and prestigious organisation such as Interpol has the highest moral character and an unimpeachable human rights record. The next Interpol President should come from a country with an established criminal justice system and longstanding respect for human rights.

The European Parliament has expressed our deep concern about the candidacy of General Inspector of the United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Interior, Major General Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi, in a Resolution adopted on 16 September 2021 (P9\_TA(2021)0390). In that Resolution, the European Parliament also called on the members of Interpol's General Assembly, and in particular EU Member States, to examine allegations of human rights abuses concerning General Major Nasser Ahmed al-Raisi ahead of the elections, which are scheduled from 23 to 25 November 2021.

We deeply believe that the election of General Al Raisi would undermine the mission and reputation of Interpol and severely affect the ability of the organisation to carry out its mission effectively, undermining the values for which the European Union stands, particularly to human rights and accountability for serious violations, including torture.

We would be grateful if, ahead of the forthcoming session of the Interpol General Assembly, you could share this letter and our concerns with Interpol Member States.

Best regards,

Maria Arena  
Chair of DROI sub-  
committee

Heidi Hautala  
Vice President of the  
European Parliament

Fabio Massimo Castaldo  
Vice President of the  
European Parliament