

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



GLOBAL & MULTILATERAL ISSUES

The Managing Director

Brussels, **23 MAI 2012**
EEAS/VI/A/2 – MM/tb – Ares

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your message concerning the situation in Tibet.

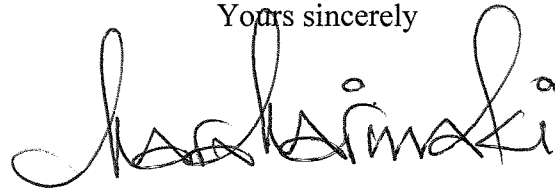
The EU fully shares your concern at recent events in Tibet. As it has been clear for some time that measures implemented by the Chinese authorities seriously undermine the religious, linguistic and cultural rights of the Tibetan minority, the EU raised the issue of rights of persons belonging to minorities at the last EU-China human rights dialogue on 16 June 2011. The EU expressed its concerns regarding increasing legal restrictions on religious practice in Tibet, limitations on teaching of the Tibetan language, the ongoing official campaign against Tibetan intellectuals and cultural figures and the impact of the mass forced resettlement of nomads on the welfare of nomads and the preservation of Tibetan culture.

More recently, the EU Delegation to China has made demarches to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressing the EU's profound concern at the self-immolations which have taken place in the Tibetan areas. In these demarches, the EU urged the Chinese authorities to refrain from the use of force against demonstrations, to allow the Tibetan people to exercise their religious, linguistic and cultural rights without restriction and to address the root causes of the self-immolations, and in particular the lack of genuine participation by the Tibetan population in the development policy of the region.

The EU also raised its deep concerns regarding the human rights situation in Tibet at the EU-China Summit on 14 February and expressed its concerns on Tibet in its country statement under Item 4 at the last round of the United Nations Human Rights Council on 6 March. Since the self-immolations began, the EU Delegation to China has repeatedly asked that EU diplomats and foreign journalists be allowed to visit the Tibetan regions but this request has been denied.

I can assure you that the EU will use every appropriate opportunity to continue to urge the Chinese authorities to improve the human rights situation in Tibet and to resume their dialogue with the Envoys of the Dalai Lama.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mara Marínaki'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'i' at the end.

Mara MARINAKI