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To all MEPs signatory to the letter regarding “State-ordered birth prevention and continuous dehumanising treatment of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang”

Dear Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 24 July, expressing your continued concern about the situation of Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, in China.

The EU has repeatedly spoken out strongly about the situation in Xinjiang, which remains a major source of concern. We continue to be gravely concerned about the existence of political re-education camps, widespread surveillance, systemic restrictions on freedom of religion or belief against Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang, as well as about reports alleging forced labour and forced sterilisation. We have been consistently raising the treatment of minorities in Xinjiang along with a number of other human rights issues directly in our contacts with the Chinese authorities at all levels, including at the highest level during the 22<sup>nd</sup> EU-China Summit via VTC on 22 June.

The recent study by the Jamestown Foundation mentioned in your letter extensively documents allegations of forced sterilisations and forced application of birth control to women belonging to minorities in Xinjiang. This raises additional extremely troubling questions about China’s policies in the region. If confirmed, such appalling practices, which would constitute serious human rights violations, should be stopped immediately and those responsible should be held accountable.

Please rest assured that we will continue to call on China to uphold its national and international obligations and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities in Xinjiang. This includes in particular reiterating our call on China to allow meaningful access and a conducive environment for visits by independent observers, with a view to an independent, objective, impartial and transparent assessment of the issues of major concern.

Finally, I would like to assure you that we will also continue to express our position and expectations in international fora, including the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Yours faithfully,



Josep Borrell Fontelles