

Fragebogen Voluntary Tibet Advocacy Group

While international attention has shifted the human rights situation in Tibet has dramatically deteriorated in recent years. Tibet is repeatedly rated as one of the least free territories on earth by human rights indexes and Tibetans face arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearances and torture simply for exercising their fundamental rights.

Frage 1: What consequences should these widespread and systematic human rights violations committed by the Chinese Communist Party in Tibet have on EU-China relations?

NEOS has already brought several bills to demand that China immediately cease the most dramatic human-rights violations and uphold the standards of international law. Most recently we supported an immediate end to cultural assimilation through forced boarding schools. We also push the Austrian government to make the case for human rights everywhere, and specifically in Tibet, a center-stage topic at the European Union. We believe sanctions against individuals who are responsible for human-rights violations should be applied together with sanctions against companies and the regime of China overall. We strongly support the European Anti-Coercion Instrument as a means of assisting smaller countries to be able to stand up to Chinese pressure without the fear of being left alone by its partners in the free and democratic world.

Frage 2: Does your party support the extension of sanction under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime to Chinese individuals and entities responsible for rights violations in Tibet?

Yes.

Frage 3: Will you encourage elected Members of European Parliament from your party to support the adoption of European Parliament's resolutions addressing human rights violations in Tibet?

Our lead candidate has been in the forefront of speaking up about human rights violations and will continue doing so when in Brussels.

First founded 1989, the European Parliament's Tibet Intergroup has played a key role that Tibet remains a high priority on the agenda of the European Parliament, creating awareness and encouraging debate on possible ways of action to improve the situation in Tibet.

Frage 4: Will you encourage elected Members of European Parliament from your party to support the re-establishment of the Parliament's Tibet Intergroup for the 2024-2029 legislative term, and to be active members?

We will support everything that keeps human rights, including Tibetan human rights, on the agenda and center-stage.

The Sino-Tibetan dialogue – a direct dialogue between envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Chinese government – has been stalled since 2010.

Frage 5: What measures could the European Union take to push the Chinese government to return to the negotiating table to find a durable and mutual solution to the Tibetan crisis?

China's economy is lagging and the government seeks to avoid economic friction with its big markets. The EU should work in close cooperation with its democratic partners in North America, East Asia and Australia-New Zealand to make it clear that better economic relations cannot be achieved without marked improvements in human rights. European consumers do not want to buy products made with slave labor or benefitting a regime that violates basic principles of human rights.

On 14 December 2023, the European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning China's boarding school system in Tibet, which has separated 1 million Tibetan children from their families and sent them to colonial-style boarding schools.

Frage 6: What will you party do at the EU level to follow up on this resolution?

We have already drafted a bill on that matter, which was unfortunately shelved by the governing Green and Conservative Parties.

The Chinese government has on several occasions indicated its intention to interfere in the succession of the Tibetan spiritual leader in exile the Dalai Lama. Meanwhile, several EU Member States have officially declared that it is the prerogative of the Tibetan religious community to choose the future Dalai Lama.

Frage 7: Do you think that the EU should adopt a common joint position opposing Chinese government interferences in the succession of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama?

We believe the Tibetan people should be allowed to control their own political as well as spiritual affairs. While we are not getting involved in religious matters of other peoples, we hold that China shouldn't do so, either.

Over 30 Chinese police stations have been discovered in 13 EU Member States, that are being used by the Chinese government to threaten and silence dissidents - including those of Tibetan descent. These covert and unlawful polics operations conducted by the Chinese regime violate the rule of law and may also violate the territorial integrity of those Member States.

Frage 8: What will your party do at the EU level to protect European citizens from transnational repression from China?

We have already spoken out against the concept of third-party police on European soil, not only, but especially, by authoritarian states whose police spies on its citizens at home and abroad.

For years, and in particular since the wave of protests that swept across Tibet in 2008, China has tightly restricted access to Tibet - including for EU foreign diplomats, parliamentarians and journalists - in order to prevent the truth about its oppression there from reaching the outside world.

Frage 9: Will you encourage elected Members of the European Parliament from your aparty to request and take part in a visit of a delegation of the European Parliament to Tibet?

We have repeatedly asked the Chinese Ambassador for the opportunity of free und unrestricted visits to Xinjiang and Tibet, but so far to no avail.