

Question for written answer E-000079/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Davor Ivo Stier (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Panzi Hospital, Democratic Republic of Congo

On 30 December 2014, Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) announced that its accounts had been frozen by the country's tax authorities over claims of tax fraud. This decision has affected the daily routine in the hospital and the wages of 370 employees have been blocked, disrupting the activities of this health institution founded by Dr Denis Mukwege, the 2014 Sakharov Prize recipient. Local human rights activists have stressed that Panzi Hospital is being targeted following Dr Mukwege's recent criticism of the government.

In light of this, has the EEAS contacted the relevant DCR authorities and conveyed the EU's concern regarding the situation at Panzi Hospital?

Furthermore, is the EEAS planning to take further steps regarding this issue and, if so, what are they?