Question for written answer E-003753/2015 to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative) Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Repression of the political opposition in Cuba

In the last week of February, 275 activists and political opponents of the Castro regime were arrested. This week, the third round of negotiations between the EU and Cuba took place. Considering the previous positions of the VP/HR on the importance of respecting human rights:

- 1. Does the VP/HR believe that the increasing number of arrests of dissidents in Cuba, which was already high, may have been part of a 'clean-up' operation in the run-up to the third round of negotiations?
- 2. In the answer to Written Question E-010607/2014 the VP/HR stated that 'the bilateral agreement will create a suitable framework through which the EU can more effectively address issues, such as the respect of human rights issues or fundamental freedoms in Cuba with the authorities'. Could the VP/HR specify how this will materialise once the regime has achieved its economic and commercial objectives?

1053187.EN PE 551.700