

**Question for written answer E-012336/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Amendment of Article 101 of the Rwandan Constitution (presidential re-election)

The Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by Rwanda's President, Paul Kagame, recently amended Article 101 of the Rwandan Constitution to enable the President to stand for possible re-election in 2017. This was made possible by 72% of the Rwandan electorate signing a petition addressed to Parliament. However, observers on the ground maintain that signatures were extracted through threat and coercion and that, moreover, the lack of political pluralism in the country deprives the process of any legitimacy (see European Parliament Resolution 2013/2641(RSP)).

Rwanda is not the only country to have recently attempted to amend its constitution with the aim of having the current leadership re-elected. The EU recently condemned similar attempts in Congo and Burundi, threatening to impose sanctions in both cases.

1. Does the Commission feel that the amendment of Article 101 of the Rwandan Constitution has democratic legitimacy?
2. Why is a different approach being taken in Congo, Burundi and Rwanda with regard to threatening and imposing sanctions with the aim of encouraging respect for human rights?