**Question for written answer E-005631/2016**

**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Jordi Sebastià (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Violations of human and democratic rights in Equatorial Guinea

The presidential elections held on 24 April 2016 in Equatorial Guinea were marked by intimidation, fraud and the abuse of power by Teodoro Obiang Nguema's regime. Against the backdrop of a questionable voting process that violated the Constitution and the law, the government, police and armed forces clamped down on political events and unlawfully detained and tortured political opponents, using heavy weapons and laying siege for two weeks to the headquarters of the political party Citizens for the Innovation of Equatorial New Guinea, whilst keeping its leader under house arrest for 35 days. In the light of these events, of the forthcoming general election and of the current framework for relations between Equatorial New Guinea and the EU, and in particular in view of the provisions of Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement:

Will the High Representative comment on what has happened and on the legitimacy of the election results?

Looking ahead to the forthcoming elections, and given the consistent breaches of democratic principles by a dictator who has been in power for 37 years, what view does the EU take of the events outlined above?

Will the EU take action to help the victims of the brutal acts of repression perpetrated in the context of the recent elections?