

Question for written answer E-000160/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Comments of Horacio Sevilla Borja - UN General Assembly

In November 2016, in a speech to the UN General Assembly to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Ecuador's Ambassador to the UN, Horacio Sevilla Borja, made the following remarks:

'We repudiate with all our strength the persecution and genocide that in its time unleashed Nazism against the Hebrew people. But I cannot remember anything more similar in our contemporary history than the eviction, persecution and genocide that today imperialism and Zionism do against the Palestinian people'.

Such comparisons are extremely offensive, are factually incorrect and are unhelpful to any constructive debate regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. At a time when EU-Ecuador links are being strengthened, most notably by the accession of Ecuador to the EU's trade agreement with Colombia and Peru, it is important to assure existing partners that the EU does not endorse or support such sentiments.

Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of the aforementioned comments, and does she believe that such remarks fall within the working definition of anti-Semitism as adopted in 2005 and as currently applied by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights?