

**Question for written answer E-002094/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Francisco Assis (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Violence in Venezuelan prisons

Prisons in Venezuela are among the worst in Latin America. The latest report by the Venezuelan Prison Observatory, which relates to 2016, reports 173 people killed and 268 injured in prisons as a result of violence, an increase of 58% and 793%, respectively, over 2015. The report by this NGO denounces prison overcrowding of 153%, with a population of inmates four times higher than capacity in Venezuela. The situation is particularly serious in police stations and cells, where overcrowding is 412%. In this type of prison where people are held for several years before being brought before a court, there have been cases of severe malnutrition, resulting in at least 10 deaths in 2016. This NGO has also registered three cases of cannibalism which is used as a method of punishment by the inmates themselves. Faced with these shocking statistics, what action will the EU take to put pressure on the Venezuelan authorities to ensure respect for prisoners' human rights and counter the horrific violence in the country's prisons?