

**Question for written answer E-002533/2017**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Johannes Cornelis van Baalen (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Situation in Paraguay

The situation in Paraguay has deteriorated, with serious and violent consequences. Following the attempts of President Horacio Cartes and the Paraguayan Parliament to amend the constitution illegally in order to allow Cartes to run again for presidency in 2018, a 25-year-old activist, Rodrigo Quintana, was killed and many activists were seriously injured during a police raid of the headquarters of the opposition Liberal Party (PLRA).

Is the VP/HR aware of this state of affairs?

Does the VP/HR agree that the behind-the-scenes-plotting of President Horacio Cartes to amend the constitution in order to run again for the presidency in 2018 is a de facto coup d'état against the democratic institutions of Paraguay?

What steps will the VP/HR take to guarantee the political freedom and civil rights of the Paraguayan people and to prevent democracy and the rule of law in Paraguay from being eroded further?