

**Question for written answer E-002784/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Alarming deterioration of the situation in Equatorial Guinea

Following on from the answer to question E-005631/2016, the harassment of the opposition parties and their leaders still persists today, especially those who enjoy more popularity. That has been the case for Citizens for Innovation in Equatorial Guinea and their leader, Gabriel Nsé Obiang Obono, who was improperly accused of alleged offences in court, which was in fact a political ploy by the ruling PDGE party to alienate him from the next elections and ensure their victory, as they did on 24 April 2016. Obiang Obono has spent the last 10 months deprived of freedom of movement owing to police harassment and is facing 10 years of political disqualification, a punishment not covered by any law. Furthermore, reports are surfacing that the Government has mercenary troops on hand and that others have arrived from Uganda to bring the regime armed support, and that move has been backed by the Ugandan Parliament, which must have authorised it.

Has the Commission considered the importance of relaying the determination of the EU to act more forcibly on the matter if the Government of Equatorial Guinea does not backtrack from this spiral of serious offences which impede all genuine democratic processes?