Question for written answer E-000942/2018 to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative) Rule 130 Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of Pamela Montenegro in Mexico

On 5 February 2018, two men fatally shot the Mexican YouTuber Pamela Montenegro in a restaurant in Acapulco. Pamela's YouTube postings were satirical in nature and chiefly targeted party organisations, and it is therefore suspected that this was a politically motivated crime.

Violence is out of control in Mexico: 29 000 people were murdered in 2017, the highest number ever officially recorded. Mexico is currently the most dangerous country in the world for media professionals, with 13 journalists murdered last year, more than the number who lost their lives in Syria and Iraq. Murderers operate in a climate of impunity, often in public places. Judicial investigations into these crimes rarely result in convictions.

Bearing in mind the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the EU and Mexico, at a time when negotiations are underway on renewing the free trade agreement between the two parties, how will the European institutions seek to influence the Mexican authorities so that they take action to curb the wave of extreme violence that is sweeping the country and protect the lives and human rights of the Mexican people?