

**Question for written answer E-002641/2018**  
**to the Commission(Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Imprisonment of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

On 7 April, the former President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is leading in the polls for the next presidential elections, was imprisoned over accusations of corruption. Even though it is gradually becoming clear that there is no objective evidence to support the accusations, Judge Moro decided to imprison Lula.

Major media outlets did everything they could to back demonstrations in support of a decision against Lula by the court. Some analysts claim that the judges involved in this case, Operation Car Wash, led by Sérgio Moro, are in fact part of a campaign of legal war, or *lawfare*.

In 2016, a very similar judicial move was used against President Dilma Rousseff to remove her from office through an impeachment process. Now, Eduardo Cunha, one of the leaders of the political prosecution of former President Rousseff, has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment after being found guilty on several counts of corruption.

The Workers' Party (PT) insists that it will still nominate Lula as its candidate for the next elections.

Does the EU believe that the minimum safeguards have been met and that former President Lula's right to a defence has been respected in this case?

Does the EU believe that the rule of law is being respected in Brazil?