

**Question for written answer E-004863/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Gross errors in the trial following the massacre of 43 students in Ayotzinapa

The case of the 43 Ayotzinapa students, who in 2014 were murdered and whose bodies were then burned, outraged the international community and did more than anything else to expose Mexico's prevailing culture of violence and impunity. Although resources have been marshalled, none of the suspected culprits has been convicted to date. The investigation, which has been marred by gross errors and whose findings have been called into question by the IACHR (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights), has lost all credibility. As if that were not enough, it is a known fact that the Mexican federal Attorney-General's office (PGR) has mixed up one of the alleged criminals, Erick 'La Rana' (The Frog), with a namesake, Erick Uriel Sandoval Rodríguez, a 36-year-old physical education teacher and father of two, who has been imprisoned since 12 March. The National Human Rights Commission has pointed out the mistake, supplied evidence to prove it, and called for Erick Sandoval to be released. However, Erick is still being held, and the PGR is refusing to admit the mistake or comment on the matter. This amounts to a clear breach of the right to freedom and redress.

What will the EU do to press for the release of Erick Sandoval and make the Mexican authorities carry out a proper investigation into the Ayotzinapa massacre so that the truth can be brought to light, the guilty can be punished, and justice can be done?