

**Question for written answer E-005077/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Denial of right to vote for Brazilian ex-president, Luís Inácio Lula da Silva

For the second time, a regional electoral court denied the Brazilian ex-president, Lula da Silva, jailed since April, the right to vote in elections on 7 October. The right to vote is enshrined in the constitution (Article 14 of the Brazilian Constitution) and can only be withheld by a formal judicial conviction (Article 15) which has not been proved to be the case. The judge responsible for the decision went as far as to recognise in the report that Lula da Silva has the right to vote. In order to deny this right, it is argued that installing a ballot box in the Federal Police station in Curitiba where Lula is located is an 'insurmountable technical impossibility'. Such a decision means that an alleged technical difficulty overrides a constitutional right. This is unacceptable in a democratic regime and follows the ban on Lula from conducting interviews as well as the lifting of confidentiality for a statement following a plea bargain just 6 days before elections. This all proves an undeniable orchestration of the justice system.

In light of these serious facts, how does the EU intend to plead for ex-president Lula to be able to exercise his political and civil rights and for the rule of law to be upheld in Brazil?