

**Question for written answer E-000168/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

Xabier Benito Ziluaga (GUE/NGL), Estefanía Torres Martínez (GUE/NGL) and Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - EU position on the urgent situation in Guatemala

The Guatemalan Government's decision to close down the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) is a breach of international agreements and goes against the country's own constitutional order. The agreement with the UN cannot be terminated unilaterally because it was ratified by the Guatemalan Congress.

The situation has worsened following the expulsion of Iván Velásquez, the head of the CICIG, and the attempt to prevent a CICIG investigator, Yilen Osorio, from entering the country. These actions breach the Constitutional Court's order, issued in December 2018, which stated that the order to expel members of CICIG was illegal.

This situation is adding to the general feeling of insecurity among human rights organisations.

1. Is the VP/HR intending to publicly take a position reiterating support for the CICIG, stating once again how important it is that the Guatemalan Government should uphold the Constitution and the rule of law, and supporting human rights organisations that are being subjected to persecution and criminal acts, including murder, by the Guatemalan Government?
2. Is the Commission intending to take steps to ensure policy coherence in line with the EU's founding Treaties, and the validity of the human rights and democracy clause in the trade agreement?