

**Question for written answer P-008799/2016/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Political prisoners in Venezuela with ties to Europe

Numerous people with ties to Europe, whether via dual nationality (Venezuela and an EU country) or their parents' family, are currently incarcerated in Venezuela for political reasons. They include the dual Portuguese citizens Vasco da Costa, 57, imprisoned at Carabobo and Dany Abreu, 32, held at the headquarters of Venezuela's Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) in Caracas as well as Juan Miguel de Sousa, 52, the son of Portuguese parents, who is also being held by SEBIN in Caracas. Mr de Sousa was recently transferred from a dark, unventilated underground prison in Caracas known as 'la Tumba' ('the Tomb'), suffering from severe health problems. The European Union has a duty to condemn the serious attacks on the rights to free expression and assembly that have seen the arrests of opposition figures and dissidents in Venezuela, and has a special responsibility concerning those bound to Europe by nationality or family ties.

How does the EU plan to protect these citizens and urge the Venezuelan authorities to ensure them access to a fair trial and humane conditions of detention?