

**Question for written answer P-003943/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE) and Jozo Radoš (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Detention of Croatian seamen in Angola

According to my own findings and to information published in the Croatian media, seamen Vanja Maričić and Duško Jelača have been forcibly detained for three months in Angola for the alleged theft and smuggling of fuel from the ship on which they were serving, 'Sutton Tide'. There are serious concerns that the allegations are baseless. In addition, there are allegations that during their removal from the ship, forcible detention, investigation and prosecution, necessary information was withheld. Attempts were made to force them to sign a document in Portuguese – a language that they do not know. Fortunately, they refused to do this. They are under house arrest and are facing terrible conditions. The EU Delegation in Angola has been informed of this.

In light of the foregoing, what does the VP/HR intend to do in order to ensure effective legal protection and appropriate assistance for the detained Croatian seamen?