

Question for written answer E-005242/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Election observation mission in Mauritania

In July 2014, Mauritians are set to go to the polls in order to elect a new president. The incumbent, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, assumed power after a 2008 coup, although he won an election in 2009 which was assessed as fair by the EU but bitterly contested by certain domestic opponents.

Five years on, allegations of corruption are widespread, and certain factions are threatening to boycott the elections if transparency measures are not implemented. There also continue to be lingering allegations of slavery in Mauritania, and the candidature of Biram Dah Abeid, the anti-slavery activist who has in the past faced harassment and jail, could also prove controversial.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of the sensitivities involved in the upcoming presidential elections in Mauritania?
2. Will she consider organising or calling for an EU election observation mission to be invited, as previously happened in the country?