

Question for written answer E-000086/2019
to the Commission (Vice-Presidente / Alta Representante)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Brazilian President's assault on the rights of indigenous peoples

The newly inaugurated President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, has never made a secret of his contempt for indigenous ways of life, which are safeguarded under the Constitution, or of his plan to 'integrate' indigenous peoples into Brazilian society. During the election campaign he employed inflammatory talk, encouraging all those who view indigenous peoples as an obstacle to economic interests or an anachronism for which there is no further use. This January Bolsonaro has moved from words to action. After choosing a Minister of Agriculture with links to agrobusiness, he transferred the responsibility for identifying and marking out indigenous territories, which had long been a matter for FUNAI (National Indigenous Foundation), to the Ministry of Agriculture, grafting the remnants of FUNAI onto a new Ministry for Women, the Family, and Human Rights, headed by an adherent of the evangelical church. This situation constitutes not only an unprecedented threat to the rights and even the survival of Brazil's indigenous peoples, but also a threat to humanity, since indigenous reservations are holding back deforestation in the Amazon region and biodiversity loss and therefore have a key role to play in combating climate change.

What does the EU plan to do to make the Brazilian Government alter this dangerous course of undermining the rights of indigenous peoples?