

**Question for written answer E-000735/2019/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: Human rights violations in Madagascar

The human rights situation in Madagascar is extremely worrying: thousands of people are being detained arbitrarily in inhumane conditions in overcrowded prisons, where poor people are held for years without trial for petty theft, persecution of whistle-blowers reporting on the illegal trade in natural resources and environmental degradation, suppression of freedom of expression, use of excessive and often deadly force by the police, with 4000 people killed in the last five years alone, in the name of the fight against cattle rustling. The political dialogue the EU entered into with Madagascar in 2015, following the restoration of constitutional order in 2014, concluded with consensus on three priorities, including the strengthening of human rights and the rule of law.

Given this priority and the EUR 518 million in development aid earmarked for 2014-2020, what is the EU doing to ensure that this dialogue and aid leads to real progress in terms of human rights?