

Question for written answer E-001668/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - murder of Mexican indigenous rights activist Samir Flores

On 20 February 2019, journalist and indigenous and environmental rights activist Samir Flores, who made a name for himself by opposing the construction of two thermal power plants and a pipeline, was murdered at the door of his home, in Amilcingo, south of Mexico City, a few days before a public consultation on that development project (*Proyecto Integral Molos*) was due to start. Thousands of people are outraged by his barbaric murder and will take to the streets to protest the deadly violence and impunity prevalent in Mexico. There is a suspicion that *Proyecto Integral Molos* economic stakeholders were behind the crime. Activists fear that the pipeline will contaminate the area's drinking water supply, which would harm local indigenous communities. In 2017, the most recent year for which figures exist, 200 activists were murdered in Mexico.

What will the EU do to urge the Mexican Government to take action to stop this carnage and ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples enshrined in international agreements are upheld, starting with the principle of obtaining their prior consent to projects which may affect their traditional way of life?