

Question for written answer E-003419/2019

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)

Subject: VP/HR - Suspicions of fraud in Bolivia's presidential elections

On Sunday 20 October, the first round of presidential elections in Bolivia took place. When the preliminary count pointed to a run-off between President Morales and his rival, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal suspended the count for 23 hours before announcing new results giving an apparent majority in the first round to Morales. This inexplicable suspension was contested by the opposition and a number of international bodies, including the European Union and the Organisation of American States (OAS), and has sparked nationwide protests and disturbances.

In the face of popular rejection and international pressure, the Bolivian Government has asked the OAS to mediate in the crisis by auditing the vote count. Its Secretary-General, Luis Almagro, has acceded to the request on condition that the Organisation's conclusions are binding. The Morales Government has not yet replied.

What action do the High Representative and the European External Action Service plan to take to guarantee the credibility, transparency and impartiality of the electoral process in Bolivia?