

Question for written answer E-000261/2020/rev.1

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: Diplomatic incident between Bolivia, Mexico and Spain

On 27 December 2019, a Spanish diplomatic delegation was detained by the Bolivian police when it tried to enter the Mexican Embassy in La Paz. Nine senior members of the Movimiento Al Socialismo (MAS), the party of former President Evo Morales, were in the embassy, having sought refuge there.

The Bolivian authorities suspected that the objective of the Spanish delegation was the exfiltration of Morales' allies, who are sought by the national justice system. These suspicions are largely due to the attitude shown by the Spanish Government and its diplomatic service when it surprisingly departed from the line followed by the European Union in Bolivia, by not recognising the interim presidency of Ms Áñez and thus contributing to the widespread perception of collusion with MAS.

In the absence of other information and given that it would be grave indeed if a Member State were to be collaborating in attempts to allow the perpetrators of electoral fraud in Bolivia to evade justice:

1. What is the Vice-President / High Representative's assessment of this diplomatic incident?
2. What measures are the Vice-President / High Representative and the European External Action Service planning to take in order to make certain that Evo Morales' collaborators, who were responsible for electoral fraud and the repression that followed, face justice in Bolivia?