

**Question for written answer E-001301/2020
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Maria Arena

Subject: Support for human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The election of President Tshisekedi has been followed by an improvement in the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the first positive steps being taken in support of human rights, such as the release of political prisoners, the authorisation for exiled opponents to return to the country and the guarantee of freedom of the press.

However, this progress needs to be continued, including by combating impunity, investigating human rights violations committed in the past and those happening now, and maintaining targeted sanctions against the senior officers in the security forces responsible for these violations. It is also important to ensure the security of civilians in conflict zones.

How can the European Union engage with the DRC to provide support to the country in its human rights actions?