

Question for written answer E-001707/2020

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: Ecuador: blocking of the runway at Guayaquil airport

We have just learned of the decision by Cynthia Viteri, mayor of the Ecuadorean city of Guayaquil, to unlawfully order council vehicles to go to the city airport and prevent the landing of two Iberia and KLM aircraft en route from Europe. The flights in question were on a mission to repatriate Dutch and Spanish nationals and had been expressly authorised by Lenín Moreno, President of Ecuador.

In preventing the aircraft from landing in contravention of the most elementary rules of the air, this blatantly irresponsible act put the safety of the crew at risk. It was also a clearly populist and xenophobic move, given that the aircraft had come from Europe, and was not justifiable on any medical or security grounds.

Given the gravity of these events:

1. What action is the High Representative and the External Action Service considering taking to hold the Ecuadorian authorities to account?
2. What action is the High Representative and the External Action Service considering taking to avoid any recurrence of such acts of xenophobia against European businesses and citizens that jeopardise their safety and integrity?