

Question for written answer E-002636/2020/rev.1

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Brazil's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a potentially devastating impact in Brazil. Specialists warn that the actual number of deaths is much higher than the 4 000 officially recorded, while in São Paulo the digging of 13 000 more graves has been announced, and saturation problems continue in hospitals and morgues.

Meanwhile, President Jair Bolsonaro insists on not following WHO recommendations, has dismissed his Minister of Health on the grounds that his commitment to social distancing measures is too harmful to the economy, and winks at his more extreme supporters' statements in favour of authoritarianism.

Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative believe that the Brazilian Government's current approach to the COVID-19 crisis is a potential risk to eventually overcoming the pandemic in the region?

Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative consider that there is a real threat of an anti-democratic backlash in the country, given Bolsonaro's participation in an event advocating military intervention?

If so, what options is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative considering adopting to address these issues?