

**Question for written answer E-003912/2020
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Elżbieta Kruk (ECR)

Subject: Political tensions and the 2020 elections in the United Republic of Tanzania and in Zanzibar

Presidential and parliamentary elections will take place in the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2020. At the same time, elections will be held in Zanzibar, which is an autonomous region of Tanzania.

Political tensions are nothing new in the United Republic of Tanzania. Zanzibar in particular experienced tensions and conflict in 1995, 2000 and 2005, which resulted in lives being lost. This year's elections in Zanzibar may be particularly difficult. The parties are refusing to engage in dialogue in view of the annulment of the 2015 elections, which the opposition claims to have won. By contrast, the CCM, which is one of Africa's longest-ruling parties, has consolidated its hegemony.

Previous elections in both Tanzania and Zanzibar have been considerably tainted by irregularities and have been challenged by observer missions.

The fact that electoral commissioners are nominated by the President or are government officials raises concerns about the neutrality and impartiality of the electoral administration.

In the light of the above I would like to ask the following:

1. What action will the High Representative take to ensure that this time, democratic principles are fully upheld and the will of the people is actually respected?
2. Will the High Representative urge the authorities of Tanzania and Zanzibar to allow freedom of assembly for the opposition and a free media, and to ensure that no abuses are committed by the authorities or government officials?