

Question for written answer E-004569/2020

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: House arrest of Álvaro Uribe, former President of Colombia

Last Tuesday, 4 August, the Supreme Court of Colombia ordered the house arrest of the country's former President, Álvaro Uribe, who has been accused of two alleged crimes of bribery and witness manipulation. This is an unprecedented decision in recent times in Colombia and has raised suspicions that there are political motives underlying the arrest of whole swathes of Colombian society.

Given the high political profile of this judicial process and of former-president Uribe, it is vitally important that it is completely impartial and that the accused's rights are fully respected. Any perceived bias would have serious consequences for the social cohesion and stability of Colombia, which is a key partner and ally of the European Union in Latin America.

In view of the above:

what steps will the High Representative, the European External Action Service and the EU Delegation to Colombia take to monitor this judicial process and the assurance of the constitutional and procedural rights of former-president Uribe?