Question for written answer E-005321/2020

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: Arbitrary action taken to block humanitarian aid at the port of Mariel

In May 2020, Solidaridad Entre Hermanos, a humanitarian aid initiative, organised a collection of food and hygiene products in the USA to be sent to help Cubans suffering as a result of the crisis. The aid was sent to Cuba through the usual channels, to be distributed by Christian churches. Cuba’s customs office should already have released the containers of aid to the churches, but stopped communicating with them and is still holding the aid. It has given no reason as to why this is.

The aim of the initiative was to provide as much assistance as possible to vulnerable families in Cuba. Despite having to dodge cyber-attacks aimed at them by the Cuban authorities, at least 15 000 families in the country managed to register to receive the aid.

1. What is the EU doing to make it possible for people in Cuban civil society who wish to help to distribute this humanitarian aid without interference from the regime?

2. What repercussions will this criminal act have on the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement?

3. Why has the Vice-President / High Representative failed to invoke Article 85 of the agreement to call for an urgent meeting with the Cuban authorities? Or is he even considering suspending the agreement?