

Question for written answer E-002446/2021

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: Electoral reform in Nicaragua and EU recognition of the elections

In recent months the Government and pro-government Parliament of Nicaragua have adopted a series of legislative reforms that are clearly designed to obstruct the opposition and ensure that elections tailor-made to suit President Daniel Ortega are held on 7 November 2021.

The most recent action taken in this regard has been the appointment of magistrates to the Supreme Electoral Council – almost all of whom are regime loyalists – and the adoption of an obviously repressive reform of the electoral law.

The Organization of American States has called for a number of steps to be taken in Nicaragua, including an overhaul of the Supreme Electoral Council and of election legislation so that credible, inclusive and transparent elections can be held. The European Parliament made similar recommendations in its resolution on Nicaragua, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority in October 2020.

In view of the above:

1. How do the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service (EEAS) assess the new composition of the Supreme Electoral Council and the recent electoral reforms adopted in Nicaragua?
2. Do the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the EEAS think the EU will be able to recognise the outcome of the forthcoming elections in Nicaragua if they are held under the current conditions?