

**Question for written answer E-002740/2021**

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

Rule 138

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo (NI), Dino Giarrusso (NI), Daniela Rondinelli (NI), Tiziana Beghin (NI)**

**Subject:** The situation in Colombia in the light of the recent wave of protests

For more than three weeks, thousands of Colombians across the country have been protesting against the government. The protests began on 28 April 2021 and were triggered by proposed tax increases on public services, but have since morphed into calls for more social justice, employment, the full implementation of the 2016 peace agreement between the government and the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), and more generally into an expression of deep discontent with corruption and police violence.

While the protests have been mostly, but not always, peaceful, the reaction of the police has been characterised by a disproportionate use of force.

As of 11 May 2021, 1 956 cases of police violence, including at least 42 killings, have been reported by non-governmental organisations. One police officer has died and 849 have been injured in clashes.

1. Has the European External Action Service (EEAS) been in direct contact with the Colombian authorities to express the EU's concerns, urge them to apply the utmost restraint and call on them to guarantee the rights to freedom of assembly, association and speech?
2. What further actions has the EEAS taken or does it intend to take in order to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the ongoing crisis?