

Question for written answer E-003733/2021

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: Eswatini crisis

In recent weeks, mass protests have taken place in Eswatini, which is considered to be the last absolute monarchy in Africa, to demand democratic freedoms. The government responded severely with an extraordinary military mobilisation against the demonstrators, a ban on all protests, the imposition of a night curfew and the restriction of internet access. Numerous sources from the press and the opposition have reported that the military and the police opened fire on demonstrators, resulting in countless victims.

Taking note of the joint statement by the EU, Taiwan, UK, and US Missions of 4 July 2021, which calls for a dialogue between opposing parties, does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to:

1. support the Southern African Development Community in its mediation work between opposing parties?
2. promote respect for fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in the country through new measures of a political and economic nature?
3. encourage the start of a democratic transition process in collaboration with regional partners and in compliance with international law?