

Question for written answer E-003734/2021

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: On riots in South Africa

On 9 July 2021, protests broke out in South Africa against the jailing of former president Jacob Zuma for contempt of court after he refused to testify in investigations into corruption. The protests quickly turned into a wave of riots on a scale unheard of since democracy in South Africa, with arson, looting on a massive scale and a level of violence that resulted in the death of at least 276 people. The outbreak of violence was fuelled by pre-existing social problems, such as extreme inequality, unemployment, high levels of crime and the discontent created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of this:

1. What measures is the the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, taking to help protect South Africa's civilian population?
2. What tools exist to assess the impact of the trade agreement between the EU and South Africa?
3. How is the European Union working to promote human rights, democracy and social justice in South Africa? What safeguards exist to ensure that EU funds earmarked for South Africa achieve the purposes for which they are intended?