

Question for written answer E-004625/2021/rev.1

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: Human rights violations in Colombia and the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Union

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, there has been a surge in human rights violations in Colombia in recent months. At least 87 people have died since the beginning of the year in the security forces' clampdown on demonstrations.

At the same time, there have been substantial delays in implementing the peace agreement, particularly as regards rural reform, crop substitution policies and the dismantling of paramilitary structures.

Despite all these alarming signs, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy signed an MOU on an Agenda of dialogue and cooperation with Colombia on 21 September.

1. Given that the protection of human rights worldwide is one of the European Union's priorities, why has it decided to sign an MOU and thus send a strong message of support for the Colombian Government despite its implication in serious human rights violations?
2. How does the EU plan to use the MOU to hold the security forces to greater account and put an end to human rights violations?
3. How will the EU accelerate the implementation of the peace agreement?