

**Question for written answer E-005526/2021**

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

Rule 138

**Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Leopoldo López Gil (PPE)**

Subject: Violation of human rights in Cuba

On 8 December 2021, US senators Bob Menéndez (Democrats, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee) and Marco Rubio (Republican, Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence) signed a letter calling on Mr Borrell to condemn the repression suffered by more than 600 political prisoners and democracy defenders in Cuba.

In recent months it has become clear that the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement ('the agreement') is being systematically violated by the Cuban regime. The brutality in the suppression of July and November's mass demonstrations, in the form of arbitrary arrests and the persecution of participants, including a number of Sakharov Prize laureates, is a clear sign that Mr Díaz-Canel's government were acting with intent and of the continued violation of the human rights of those who speak up for freedom.

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) take the view that human rights are being violated in Cuba?
2. What sort of assistance or cooperation is the EU Delegation in Cuba providing to independent civil society representatives and Sakharov Prize laureates?
3. In the light of the deterioration of the current situation, does the VP/HR believe that now is the time to activate Article 85 of the human rights clause of the agreement, as Parliament requested in its resolution of September 2021?