

Question for written answer E-000637/2022

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: Murder of a child by the Trinidad and Tobago coastguard

The economic and humanitarian situation created by Nicolás Maduro's autocratic regime in Venezuela has resulted in an overwhelming exodus of over 6 million Venezuelans, according to UNHCR estimates. Many of them have travelled along dangerous migration routes in inhospitable conditions of extreme poverty. The sheer scale of this crisis has, in certain countries of arrival, provoked hostile and xenophobic reactions on the part of both the authorities and local residents.

On 6 February, the Trinidad and Tobago coastguard opened fire on a boat containing 20 migrants arriving from Venezuela. This was not the first time that such a thing had occurred. Tragically, however, their appalling actions on this occasion cost the life of a one-year-old infant that died in the arms of its mother, who was also injured.

Bearing in mind that Trinidad and Tobago has for some time now been receiving EU funding under the Cotonou Agreement, which seeks to promote human rights and democratic principles:

What measures are the EU External Action Service and its Ambassador in Trinidad and Tobago planning to take to express their condemnation of such acts and prevent any recurrence thereof?