

**Question for written answer E-003880/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Security crisis in Ecuador and systemic human rights violations in prisons

Between February 2021 and November 2022, more than 410 people detained by the state were killed in Ecuador's prisons.

The security crisis extends beyond prisons and Ecuador has gone from being the second safest country in the region to the third most dangerous. Guillermo Lasso's government has cut the budgets for both security and social rights, guarantees of comprehensive security.

It has also declared a state of emergency over a dozen times in one year but has not put in place a security strategy to address the insecurity and widespread crime in the country.

This concern is shared by the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, which recently visited Ecuador¹.

1. Is the Commission considering freezing the trade agreement until there is an end to the human rights violations in Ecuador?
2. On 14 September, it announced a new EU-Ecuador partnership² to strengthen the prison system. What controls have been put in place to ensure that those resources do not promote policies that maintain the violations of the human rights of detainees?

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¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/ecuador-un-torture-prevention-body-remains-seriously-concerned-prison-crisis>

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ecuador/ecuador-y-la-uni%C3%B3n-europea-realizan-el-lanzamiento-del-programa-europeo-de_en