

Question for written answer E-000587/2024

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

Rule 138

Maria Veronica Rossi (ID)

Subject: Maurizio Cocco, an EU citizen detained in Abidjan prison in violation of his human rights

On 2 June 2022 an Italian citizen, Maurizio Cocco, was remanded in custody and transferred to Abidjan prison, a facility where sanitary conditions are appalling¹, in part because it holds 12 000 inmates when it only has capacity for 1 500. Mr Cocco was initially accused of being part of an international drug trafficking and money laundering conspiracy but, following an investigation, he was acquitted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Tribunal in Cocody. However, because of accusations of tax fraud, Mr Cocco is still being unlawfully detained, even though the competent authority has never formally charged him².

Given that the conditions in which Mr Cocco is being held are deplorable constitute a violation of his human rights, and in the light of the provisions of Article 20 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and of the EU's ongoing cooperation agreements – including the 2016 Economic Partnership Agreement – with Côte d'Ivoire:

1. Will the Vice-President / High Representative turn to the EU Delegation in Abidjan and/or employ other means to assist Italy's consular authorities to shed light on Mr Cocco's case?
2. What diplomatic action will he take to uphold the civil rights of Mr Cocco, an EU citizen?

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¹ <https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMhgeStbhLntelZKfgC7sRmBJfoo-zyEg6-L5OyK6TNk3g3KjhT5I9rutHVbDK0Pw?key=SXp4YI82ZExpUXJCZ1I2WWMycVdSQzhqbFV0YXR3>

² https://www.ilmessaggero.it/frosinone/ingegnere_fiuggi_maurizio_cocco_in_carcere_costa_d_avorio_innocente-7871941.html