

**Question for written answer P-004208/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

António Fernando Correia de Campos (S&D)

Subject: The situation of civilians in Guinea-Bissau following the military coup

On 12 April 2012, there was a coup in Guinea-Bissau that resulted in the arrest of the interim President of the Republic, Raimundo Pereira, the Prime Minister and presidential candidate in the elections under way at the time, Carlos Gomes Júnior, and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, General António Indjai.

The political and military uncertainty in the country, where the military junta has appointed a National Transitional Council that has not been recognised by the international community, is bringing the country to the brink of collapse and places the population in imminent danger of a humanitarian crisis.

The Simão Mendes National Hospital, the main health facility in the country, is running out of medical and surgical supplies, food and water, fuel for generators, drugs and coal. It is currently surviving on anonymous and public donations from those who have responded en masse to an appeal made by the hospital on social networks.

The population, disturbed by what has been happening, has started to flee the capital towards the interior of the country. Food is becoming scarce or impossibly expensive. Fuel for generators is also becoming hard to find. In this context, it is highly likely that human, civil, political, economic and social rights in the country will deteriorate.

- Is the Commission monitoring the situation in Guinea-Bissau and considering providing humanitarian aid?
- Does the Commission intend to take action to support the population of Guinea-Bissau through DG ECHO's humanitarian aid department?