

**Priority question for written answer P-001624/2021**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs**  
**and Security Policy**  
Rule 138  
**Giuliano Pisapia (S&D)**

Subject:     Runoff elections in Ecuador

The first round of the presidential elections in Ecuador was held on 7 February 2021. Two weeks later, the National Electoral Council announced the official results, confirming that Andrés Arauz, representing the Union for Hope (Unión por la Esperanza), was in the lead with 32.72% of votes cast. Having failed to garner the 40% necessary to claim outright victory, he will now face Guillermo Lasso, who came second with 19.74%, in a runoff to be held on 11 April. In fact, this second round, which is both unnecessary and unprecedented, is being held on the insistence of the Ecuadorian electoral authorities prompted by the current government, despite the clear outcome of the first round, certified by the Organisation of American States Election Observation Mission. There is also evidence of internal and external attempts to have the ballot postponed in a bid to derail the democratic process in Ecuador.

Given the impossibility of sending a European election observation mission to Ecuador, can the Vice-President / High Representative say as a matter of urgency what alternative measures will be taken by the EEAS to ensure the smooth and timely completion of the second round of elections in Ecuador?