Subject: Dutch ship *Happy Dover* still in detention, while crew is released

Drug trafficking is a problem and often happens at the expense of shipowners. For many years, the shipping industry and non-governmental organisations have been trying to prevent and combat this unlawful activity. In May 2020, the International Chamber of Shipping, together with other international industry organisations, issued an alert\(^1\) concerning the risk of crews being arrested and ships being detained in Mexico, when a vessel has been unwittingly used for the illegal transportation of narcotics. This drew attention to a series of recent cases where ships have been held upon arrival in Mexican ports. The case of the Dutch ship *Happy Dover* is ongoing, with the ship having been held in Mexico since 12 November 2020.

1. How is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy ensuring the fair treatment of EU shipowners and their crews when they are detained on suspicions of involvement in a crime, as explained above? What actions has the VP/HR already taken?

2. According to the Mexican Federal Code of Criminal Procedure, anyone accused of drug-related offences must remain in prison for the duration of the pre-trial period, even if there is a possibility they are innocent. This seems to be a disproportionate approach often taken by public prosecutors in cases of ship and seafarer detentions. Is the VP/HR willing to communicate his concerns to the Mexican Government regarding this matter?