

Priority question for written answer P-000225/2022
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: Case of Marco Zennaro

In April 2021, the Italian businessman Marco Zennaro was arrested in Sudan on charges relating to a commercial dispute over an order of electrical transformers produced by his company for the Sudanese Electricity Distribution Company. He was accused of having delivered defective goods.

After weeks of being held in inhumane conditions, thanks also to the mediation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU Delegation to Sudan, the charges were dropped and he was transferred to house arrest. However, a civil court has blocked his passport and initiated civil proceedings, preventing him from returning to his country.

After being postponed several times, the civil hearing is now scheduled for 23 January.

In the light of the above, what support will the European External Action Service and the EU Delegation to Sudan offer to the Italian Embassy and the Director-General for Italian Citizens Abroad of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luigi Maria Vignali, to secure Marco Zennaro's full freedom to return to Italy?