

**Priority question for written answer P-002228/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU response to attempts to exclude Movimiento Semilla party from second round of Guatemalan presidential elections

The electoral process in Guatemala has been seriously disrupted after a judge suspended the progressive political party Movimiento Semilla, led by Bernardo Arévalo, which had advanced to the second round of the general elections¹. This suspension occurred after the country's Supreme Electoral Tribunal officially announced the results of the first round of elections, held on 25 June 2023².

The Guatemalan Constitutional Court provisionally revoked the suspension on 13 July 2023. Nevertheless, until the Constitutional Court issues a verdict, the threat of the party's suspension persists³.

The suspension was driven by prosecutor Rafael Curruchiche, who has been sanctioned by the USA for corruption⁴. The prosecutor accuses the party of committing 'acts of corruption', but has failed to provide any preliminary evidence in this regard.

In light of the EU's commitment to promoting democracy and the rule of law in its external action, as enshrined in Article 21(1) of the Treaty on European Union, as well as the EU sanctions regime:

1. What measures will the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the EU Delegation to Guatemala undertake to protect the right to hold free and fair elections?
2. Will the VP/HR recommend to the Council that it adopt sanctions against Rafael Curruchiche, in line with those imposed by the USA?

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¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/13/world/americas/guatemala-election-party-suspended.html?partner=IFTTT>.

² <https://www.agenzianova.com/en/news/appeals-against-the-polls-in-guatemala-international-fears-for-the-continuation-of-the-presidential-elections>.

³ <https://elpais.com/internacional/2023-07-13/el-tribunal-electoral-de-guatemala-recurre-la-exclusion-de-la-candidatura-progresista-de-bernardo-arevalo-de-la-segunda-vuelta.html>.

⁴ <https://www.wlrn.org/news/2022-07-21/u-s-issues-blacklist-of-corrupt-undemocratic-players-in-poverty-and-violence-torn-central-america>.