

Question for written answer E-002671/2024/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

Eero Heinäluoma (S&D)

Subject: The detention of Temirlan Sultanbekov

On 13 November 2024, prominent opposition leader and leader of the Kyrgyz Social Democrats, Temirlan Sultanbekov, was detained at the party's headquarters, denied legal representation and pressured to withdraw his candidacy for the upcoming elections of deputies of local councils. His detention raises growing concerns over the treatment of the political opposition, democratic rights and fundamental freedoms in the country. In light of this:

1. Has the Vice-President / High Representative expressed, or does it intend to express, its concerns over the deterioration of democratic rights in Kyrgyzstan and the detention of Mr Sultanbekov in particular?
2. What measures will the Vice-President / High Representative take to strengthen the protection of democratic rights and fundamental freedoms in Kyrgyzstan, as provided for also in the recently signed Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic?

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