

**Question for written answer E-003965/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Mary Khan (ESN)

Subject: Heinrich XIII Prinz Reuss's detention conditions: possible violations of fundamental rights

Heinrich XIII Prinz Reuss has been held in pre-trial detention since December 2022. A press report from September 2026 claims he has been held in isolation and subjected to degrading physical searches after visits.¹ Already back in May 2024, his defence counsel had objected to the use of partition screens during meetings with their client and to the appointment of a reading judge to monitor correspondence with the defence counsel.²

The case raises fundamental questions about dignified, proportionate pre-trial detention and effective defence. The standards that should apply are provided for in Recommendation (EU) 2023/681 and Directive 2013/48/EU.

1. On the basis of the standards set out in Recommendation (EU) 2023/681, how does the Commission assess the reported cases of solitary confinement and body searches in cases of long-term pre-trial detention?
2. Under what conditions are partitions in meetings with the defence counsel and the monitoring of correspondence with the defence counsel by a reading judge compatible with Articles 3 and 4 of Directive 2013/48/EU?
3. What specific steps can the Commission take, within the limits of its competences vis-à-vis Germany, to investigate these allegations regarding the application of its detention standards and possible breaches of the rights of defence under EU law?

Submitted: 1.10.2026

¹ <https://nius.de/news/herles-zum-fall-prinz-reuss-das-ist-staatsfolter>.

² <https://www.v-alvensleben.de/post/pressespiegel-vom-24-mai-2024-zu-prinz-reu%C3%9F-opening-statement-im-prozess>.