

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001790/24**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**  
**Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe)**  
(23 September 2024)

*Subject:* Concern regarding the judicial reform launched by the outgoing President of Mexico

Mexico's President López Obrador recently managed to push through a controversial judicial reform that is provoking street protests because of the attack on the rule of law and on the separation of powers in the country that this reform entails.

The reform constitutes a serious attack on the independence of Mexico's judiciary, as it seeks to centralise power and reduce existing balances in order to have greater government control over the judiciary and limit the autonomy of judges.

The new proposal for the election of judges that is being enacted contravenes fundamental democratic standards by including a direct selection process for judges and lowering the criteria required for appointment as a judge, seriously casting doubt on legal certainty in the country and the independence of judges.

In light of the above:

1. What is the opinion of the Vice-President/High Representative regarding the proposal for judicial reform put forward by López Obrador?
2. Does the Vice-President/High Representative consider this reform to be a further attack on the separation of powers and on the rule of law in Mexico?
3. Does the Vice-President/High Representative believe that the Mexican leaders of the MORENA party, such as López Obrador or Claudia Sheinbaum, may be taking a dangerously anti-democratic path?

Submitted: 23.9.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission**  
(11 November 2024)

Mexico is an important political and economic partner for the EU at bilateral, regional, and multilateral level. Democracy and the rule of law are shared fundamental values in the EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership <sup>(1)</sup> and are at the core of the EU-Mexico Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement) <sup>(2)</sup> in place since 2000. These values remain central in the effort to finalise the modernisation of the Global Agreement.

The EU respects Mexico's sovereign right to choose its judicial system. An efficient, effective, impartial and independent judiciary is an essential pillar of the rule of law in any democracy, as well as, from an economic point of view, an essential element to ensure a favourable business environment, guarantee legal certainty, as well as to keep and attract investment.

Policy developments related to the rule of law, human rights and good governance, both in the EU and Mexico, are matters that are discussed notably within the EU-Mexico High Level Dialogue on Human Rights.

The discussion with Mexico on these important topics will continue in the forums established by the EU-Mexico Global Agreement.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/eu-mexico-strategic-partnership/product-details/20170624DPU08702>  
<sup>(2)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:r14011>