

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002382/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe)
(31 October 2024)

Subject: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum's reckless refusal to combat drug trafficking

Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum confirmed during the presentation of the national security plan that she had no intention to wage a much-needed 'war on drugs', thus continuing the policies of her predecessor and ally Andrés Manuel López Obrador, despite the fact that more than 190 000 murders ⁽¹⁾ were committed in Mexico during his term in office.

Sheinbaum has thus revealed her complicity with drug trafficking and drug-related violence, mere days after the mayor of Chilpancingo was found decapitated ⁽²⁾.

1. What view does the Commission take on Sheinbaum's intentions to go easy on drug traffickers?
2. Between 2015 and 2023, the Commission disbursed almost EUR 140 million in aid and subsidies to Mexico. Given President Scheinbaum's intentions, how does the Commission intend to ensure that such funding does not end up encouraging this type of crime now that the Mexican authorities have gone soft on drug trafficking?
3. Does the Commission intend to temporarily suspend its policy of aid and subsidies to the Mexican authorities until such time as the country resumes the fight against drug trafficking and we can ensure that these funds do not end up in the hands of drug traffickers?

Submitted: 31.10.2024

Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(17 December 2024)

The fight against organised crime is a shared priority for the EU and Mexico. The EU closely follows the Mexican government's new security strategy and opportunities for further EU-Mexico cooperation in this field.

The Commission remains committed to cooperating with and supporting Mexico to address security and drug trafficking, as it has been the case in the past years notably through the Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime ⁽³⁾ and the Cooperation Program between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU on drug policy ⁽⁴⁾. In this framework, the EU supports police and judicial cooperation, the investigation of assets and strengthens the capacities of Ombudspersons. The Commission is also leveraging on the advanced capabilities of EU's front-line Agencies (Europol and the EU Drugs Agency) and EU's operational cooperation platforms (the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats ⁽⁵⁾ and the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre — Narcotics ⁽⁶⁾). Besides, the EU supports the work of the national commission on mental health and addictions of Mexico. The Commission makes use of all the tools at its disposal to ensure a sound management of EU funds at all stages of the project management cycle, notably through monitoring and evaluation.

The Commission applies the EU policy of constructive engagement, while protecting the financial interests of the EU, notably through the use of the early detection and exclusion system. The Commission refers the Honourable Member to Article 138 of the Financial Regulation ⁽⁷⁾, which sets out the exclusion grounds based on which an entity may be excluded from receiving EU funding for a limited period of time.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eldebate.com/internacional/20240129/lopez-obrador-admite-mandato-terminara-190000-homicidios-peor-historia-mexico_170706.htm

⁽²⁾ <https://gaceta.es/iberosfera/decapitan-al-alcalde-de-la-ciudad-mexicana-de-chilpancingo-menos-de-una-semana-despues-de-asumir-el-cargo-20241007-1729/?scroll-event=true>

⁽³⁾ <https://elpaceto.eu/en/>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://copolad.eu/en/>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/empact>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://maoc.eu/>

⁽⁷⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402509