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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.6.2025)

The EU significantly intensified efforts in support of democracy and the rule of law, demonstrated by the deployment of the 2023 Electoral Observation Mission, its firm stance in defending the election results, and the adoption of individual restrictive measures¹.

The EU publicly expressed concerns about the instrumentalisation of the justice system and individual cases. The EU Special Representative for Human Rights did so during his visit to Guatemala on 17-19 February 2025². The EU Delegation continues to monitor such cases and where possible observes judicial hearings. This is coordinated with Member States and like-minded partners.

The EU works closely together with the government, and all sectors of Guatemalan society, to advance on shared priorities. This includes strengthening governance, transparency, promoting inclusive and sustainable development, and human rights. It is clear that to this end, all Guatemalan state institutions will have to join this effort. The EU will also continue its support to civil society and to human rights defenders.

The Guatemalan government demonstrates willingness to advance a positive national agenda. The Commission currently does not intend to review the Association Agreement³. It provides, in its political and cooperation part, relevant provisions for bilateral cooperation and dialogue on human rights. Suspension is a measure of last resort.

¹ Guatemala: Council renews EU restrictive measures for a year, 13/12/2024, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/12/16/guatemala-council-renews-eu-restrictive-measures-for-a-year/>.

² EU Special Representative for Human Rights visits Guatemala, 20/02/2025, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/guatemala/eu-special-representative-human-rights-visits-guatemala_en.

³ EU-Central America Association Agreement, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:22012A1215\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:22012A1215(01)).