

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001938/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew)
(14 May 2025)

Subject: Situation in Cambodia and Commission action to address it

Grave concerns from the EU, the UN and international non-governmental organisation reports led to a November 2024 Parliament resolution demanding action on Cambodia. The need for stronger EU policy is highlighted by Cambodia's protection of suspects in the assassination of EU national, Lim Kimya, in Bangkok. It is also emphasised by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's finding, linking Huione Group, connected to the Prime Minister's cousin Hun To, to cybercrime that impacts EU citizens. This trend contradicts EU principles and the everything but arms (EBA) trade scheme.

1. What detailed action plan has the Commission developed to implement the demands of the 2024 Cambodia Resolution, and what mechanisms are in place to monitor and evaluate its impact?
2. Given Cambodia's continued failure to comply with its obligations under the EBA regulations, what concrete steps will the Commission propose to address these breaches and does the Commission still consider the EBA to be effective, and if not, what alternative regulatory frameworks will the Commission consider?
3. Regarding Cambodia's non-cooperation on the Lim Kimya extradition, what diplomatic and legal measures will the European External Action Service undertake and does the Commission believe that current EU legislation is sufficient to address instances of transnational repression emanating from or facilitated by Cambodia, or is new legislation deemed necessary to protect EU citizens?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(18 July 2025)

The Commission has been continuously engaging with the Cambodian authorities and relevant stakeholders, including the European Parliament on the issues of concern regarding human rights situation in Cambodia.

The Commission took note and is giving due consideration to the European Parliament Resolution of 28 November 2024 on the shrinking space for civil society in Cambodia ⁽¹⁾.

As stressed by the Commission during the European Parliament debate accompanying the Resolution, the EU is closely monitoring the situation of civil society organisations affected by the actions of the authorities.

In the recent meeting between the President of the European Council and the Prime Minister of Cambodia, held in the margins of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice on 9 June 2025, the EU voiced its hope for respect of human rights and greater freedom for civil society and independent media in Cambodia. The EU will also continue to support human rights and democracy in Cambodia through its cooperation instruments.

Regarding the Everything but Arms (EBA) trade scheme ⁽²⁾, the EU's current focus is on the implementation of the decision taken in 2020 to partially withdraw EBA preferences ⁽³⁾.

Since the withdrawal, the interaction with Cambodia continued in the context of the political dialogue with the European External Action Service.

On 21 November 2023, the Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President published a Report on EU Enhanced Engagement with Cambodia ⁽⁴⁾, which contains a public assessment of the developments in Cambodia in the areas of concern.

Regarding the case of Mr Lim Kimya, the respective EU Delegations in Bangkok and Phnom Penh have been following the developments on this file.

It is to be noted that the case falls under the remit of the competent French authorities who are actively pursuing judicial cooperation with Thai and Cambodian authorities.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/291917/TA-10-2024-0053_EN.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/everything-arms-eba>.

⁽³⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/550 of 12 February 2020, OJ L127, 22.4.2020, p.1-12.

⁽⁴⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=SWD\(2023\)360&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=SWD(2023)360&lang=en).