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E-002186/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.7.2025)

The EU regrets the Foreign Agents Law adopted by the Salvadorian Legislative Assembly on 20 May 2025 and has made this clear both publicly¹ and directly with the Salvadoran authorities, in close coordination with Member States and other international partners.

This legislation runs counter to El Salvador's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which it is a state party. Moreover, it risks restricting civil society actors' access to funding, which is essential for their functioning and vital to any healthy democracy.

In this context, the EU is also concerned over the recent detentions of human rights defenders, and expects the Salvadoran authorities to uphold their fundamental rights to freedom of expression and due process, as well as to ensure their safety and physical integrity.

While the EU remains committed to supporting inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in El Salvador, the new legislation on foreign agents and the shrinking space for civil society risks undermining development and could negatively impact cooperation.

¹ El Salvador: Statement by the Spokesperson on the Foreign Agents Law and recent developments, 7 June 2025, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/el-salvador-statement-spokesperson-foreign-agents-law-and-recent-developments_en.