

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003764/25
to the Commission**

**Anthony Smith (The Left), Martin Schirdewan (The Left), Estrella Galán (The Left), Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE),
Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D)**
(26 September 2025)

Subject: Serious human rights violations and democratic backsliding in Ecuador: possible implications for the EU-Ecuador agreement

Since 2017, democracy has been gradually deteriorating in Ecuador: inequality has shot up, poverty and job insecurity rates have been rising, public services have been eroded, and the presence and role of organised crime is increasingly worrying.

The Daniel Noboa-led government has established an authoritarian climate built on militarisation, criminalisation and systematic persecution of political opponents, under the pretext of a security crisis that it is failing to resolve.

Many reports refer to restrictions on fundamental freedoms during the state of emergency and serious human rights violations.

The separation of powers is gradually being blurred as the executive expedites the adoption of 'economic emergency' laws without proper justification and systematically targets the Constitutional Court and civil society.

In the light of this state of affairs:

1. What view does the Commission take of the state of play in Ecuador?
2. Has it sent the Ecuadorian Government a warning, reminding it of its obligation to honour its commitments to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as set out in Article 2 of the EU-Ecuador agreement?
3. If conditions slip further, would it consider temporarily suspending the agreement as a way to apply pressure?

Submitted: 26.9.2025

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

Ecuador is facing a security crisis characterised by increased violence and killings linked to organised crime, which has exacerbated pre-existing challenges including poverty and social inequality.

In recent weeks, tensions between the current government of Ecuador and some sectors of society have led to public protests, including violent clashes.

The EU Heads of Mission issued a local statement on 8 October 2025, condemning all acts of violence and calling for restraint. The EU continues to encourage dialogue and peaceful resolution of differences.

The EU regularly raises the importance of continued commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law with the authorities of Ecuador.

These exchanges take place in the framework of the EU-Ecuador High Level Political Dialogue ⁽¹⁾, the EU-Ecuador local human rights dialogue, and in the context of EU development cooperation with Ecuador.

The EU is also carrying out activities to promote and protect human rights in Ecuador, including support to civil society and human rights defenders.

The EU-Colombia-Ecuador-Peru Trade Agreement ⁽²⁾ contains an essential elements clause requiring respect for human rights. If a Party violates these provisions, the other Party may adopt appropriate measures proportional to the violation.

In cases of continuous, systematic, and grave human rights violations, the Commission may propose to the Council the suspension of the Agreement as a last-resort measure.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/ecuador-bilateral-political-consultations-mechanism-between-european-union-and-ecuador_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/eu-colombia-peru-ecuador-trade-agreement>.

At this stage, the Commission does not consider that such conditions exist with Ecuador. Before suspension, the EU should prioritise measures that minimally disrupt the Agreement while enabling continued dialogue, cooperation, and monitoring of human rights in Ecuador.
