

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003990/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
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(10 October 2025)

Subject: Deterioration in the rule of law and political persecution in Brazil

Brazil is undergoing a serious democratic crisis. There are clear signs of erosion of the separation of powers, with an abusive concentration of judicial authority over representative institutions. Arbitrary judicial proceedings against political opponents are multiplying, without minimum guarantees of defence and fair trial, accompanied by censorship and intimidation of critical voices.

This situation risks consolidating a regime of political persecution and suppression of fundamental freedoms.

In the light of the EU's commitment to democracy and human rights:

1. Does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) consider that the current use of the judicial system as a political instrument in Brazil undermines the country's international credibility and should affect how the EU structures its bilateral cooperation and dialogue?
2. Which common foreign and security policy instruments — namely diplomatic démarches, public statements, targeted measures and support for civil society — does the VP/HR intend to activate in response to this reality?
3. Is the VP/HR willing to make the intensity of EU-Brazil cooperation conditional on concrete improvements in Brazil's respect for democratic principles and the rule of law?

Supporter ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 10.10.2025

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

Brazil is a strategic partner of the EU, one of the biggest democracies worldwide and a trusted member of the international community. In 2025, it celebrated the 40th anniversary of its return to democracy.

Since then, the country has built a robust system of checks and balances, where executive, legislative and judicial powers operate with distinct responsibilities and the capacity to hold one another accountable.

Its independent democratic institutions — from the Supreme Federal Court to the Electoral Justice system — have played a crucial role in safeguarding free and fair elections, protecting constitutional rights and ensuring that political power remains subject to the rule of law.

The alternation of political forces in power through legitimate electoral processes remains a hallmark of Brazil's democratic framework.

The EU trusts in the functioning and independence of Brazil's democratic institutions and in its adherence to shared values such as the respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and free speech. Therefore, there is no intention to propose to the Council the use of any common foreign and security policy instruments.

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Markus Buchheit (ESN)