

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000958/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Irene Montero (The Left)
(9 March 2026)

Subject: Violation of the democratic clause of the Trade Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, of the other part ('the Agreement') following the suspension of the Citizen Revolution Movement

On 6 March 2026, Ecuador's Electoral Disputes Tribunal (Tribunal Contencioso Electoral, TCE) imposed an administrative suspension of nine months on the Citizen Revolution Movement (RC5), the main opposition force in the country. This administrative measure de facto prevents the political participation of a significant part of the Ecuadorian electorate.

Article 23 of the American Convention on Human Rights sets strict limits as regards restrictions on political rights and protects the right of citizens to participate in public affairs and to be elected in genuine elections.

Given that Article 1 of the Agreement establishes that respect for democratic principles constitutes an 'essential element' of the Agreement:

1. Does the Commission consider the administrative suspension of an opposition political force in Ecuador to be compatible with the democratic commitments made in the Agreement?
2. Does the European External Action Service intend to activate the political dialogue with Ecuador in order to assess the impact of this measure on democratic pluralism and the rule of law?
3. Does the Commission intend to launch consultations with the Ecuadorian authorities in connection with the Agreement in order to assess possible measures in the event of a breach of its democratic clause?

Submitted: 9.3.2026

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(10 June 2026)

Democratic principles, human rights and the protection of fundamental freedoms underpin EU-Ecuador relations. While the High Representative/Vice-President cannot evaluate the legitimacy of the suspension of the Revolución Ciudadana movement, the EU Electoral Observation Mission deployed for the 2024-2025 voting process recommended a review of the sanctions foreseen under Ecuador's Election Law that could exceed those under the country's penal code ⁽¹⁾.

The EU regularly addresses concerns with Ecuador's authorities through diplomatic channels and formal dialogue mechanisms, such as the High-Level Political Dialogue and Human Rights Dialogue.

EU cooperation with Ecuador includes joint efforts against transnational organised crime, support to human rights, and strengthening of state institutions including the judiciary. The EU also continues to support democracy, civil society and human rights defenders in Ecuador.

The EU considers that dialogue, cooperation, and economic relations including trade remain the most effective means for encouraging Ecuador's adherence to democratic principles, the rule of law and political pluralism. The EU will be monitoring developments and may consider adapting its approach based on evolving circumstances.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025/documents/Final%20Report%20EU%20EOM%20Ecuador%202025%20EN%20Total%20-%20Cover.pdf>.