

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000978/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Anthony Smith (The Left)
(10 March 2026)

Subject: Attacks on the rule of law by the Government of the Republic of Ecuador

On 6 March 2026, Ecuador's Electoral Dispute Tribunal decided to suspend the Citizen Revolution movement, the main opposition party at the head of the second largest parliamentary group in the Ecuadorian National Assembly, from the official register of political parties for a period of nine months. The decision was taken following a complaint lodged by the Ecuadorian public prosecutor's office in the context of an investigation known as 'Caja Chica'.

That investigation concerns suspected money laundering and irregular financing of the 2023 presidential campaign. During this nine-month period, Citizen Revolution will be removed from the register of political organisations of the National Electoral Council and cannot formally act as a political party. The measure could prevent it from taking part in the local elections scheduled for 2027. The movement's leaders accuse President Daniel Noboa of instrumentalising the country's institutions to remove any possibility of opposition to his policies, and have announced that they will be pursuing legal remedies to challenge the suspension.

Will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy therefore:

1. recognise and condemn this instrumentalisation of Ecuadorian institutions for political ends?
2. take political and diplomatic action to preserve the rule of law in the Republic of Ecuador?

Submitted: 10.3.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(30 April 2026)

The High Representative/Vice-President and the European External Action Service are following closely the recent suspension of the Revolución Ciudadana political movement.

The respect for democratic principles and protection of fundamental freedoms underpin relations between the EU and Ecuador. The deployment of an EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) for the 2024-25 elections in Ecuador was part of the EU effort to strengthen the rule of law and electoral transparency in Ecuador ⁽¹⁾.

In its final report, the EOM noted that Ecuador's Election Law included the possibility of suspension of political rights from six months to four years, which exceeded the period foreseen under Ecuador's penal code ⁽²⁾.

The EOM cautioned that such a suspension could impose disproportionate restrictions on political rights and recommended a review of the sanctions for electoral offences foreseen by the Election Law.

The EU considers that dialogue and cooperation with Ecuador remain the most effective means of preserving and strengthening the country's rule of law.

The EU regularly raises its concerns through diplomatic channels and in formal dialogue mechanisms such as the EU-Ecuador High-Level Political Dialogue and EU-Ecuador Human Rights Dialogue.

EU cooperation in support of the rule of law in Ecuador includes activities to fight transnational organised crime, support for human rights, strengthening the country's judiciary, and support to independent institutions, civil society and human rights defenders that monitor, report on, and advocate for the rule of law in Ecuador.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eom-ecuador-2025/about-eom-ecuador-2025_en.

⁽²⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ecuador/european-union-election-observation-mission-presents-its-final-report-15-recommendations-support_en.