

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002250/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Anthony Smith (The Left), Emma Fourreau (The Left), Marina Mesure (The Left)
(2 June 2026)

Subject: Drift towards authoritarianism and breaches of the rule of law in the Plurinational State of Bolivia

For over three weeks, the Bolivian people have mobilised to defend their purchasing power and their sovereignty over the conditions for the exploitation of the country's raw materials. US multinationals, supported by the Trump administration, are seeking to take the profits of those raw materials for themselves.

The repressive will of President Rodrigo Paz, who has been in power for several months, can be seen in the images reaching us. With the arrest warrant issued by the Bolivian Public Prosecutor's Office against Mario Argollo Mamani, executive secretary of the main trade union, as well as against six other leaders, including Justino Apaza Callisaya, leader of the Federation of Neighbourhood Councils of La Paz, we cannot but be concerned about how the Bolivian President is drifting towards authoritarianism and breaching the rule of law.

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

1. condemn the Bolivian Government's crackdown on the demonstrations, as well as the Bolivian President's drift towards authoritarianism in his actions against those responsible for the social protest?
2. reaffirm the people's right to self-determination by condemning the United States' interference in the country, as well as in the region more generally, as it seeks to grab the natural resources of South American countries?

Submitted: 2.6.2026

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

Eight months ago, Bolivia held exemplary, peaceful, and serene general elections, as witnessed by the Electoral Observation Mission deployed by the EU, resulting in a clear victory of their President.

The EU has been following the recent social conflict and blockades closely and it deplores the loss of life and injuries.

Bolivia's social conflict can only be resolved through peaceful dialogue, within the framework of respect for democracy, constitutional order, and the institutions of the state.

The EU notes that the government has consistently called for dialogue, a call so far rejected by some of the protesting sectors. To give dialogue a chance, the government has moreover refrained from calling a state of emergency, despite pressures from many parts.

Demonstrations and protests must be conducted peacefully. The EU calls on all parties to act with responsibility and restraint, avoiding all forms of violence, incitement to confrontation, or actions that could deepen polarisation and increase the suffering of the population, and ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights, including the freedoms of expression and association.

At the same time, it highlights the need to guarantee the population's access to essential services, medical care, food, fuel, and other indispensable goods.

As regards Bolivia's raw materials, the EU's position is that this sector should be developed through a sustainable, transparent, and mutually beneficial partnership that creates value inside Bolivia.

The EU aims to support investment, technology transfer, local processing, environmental standards, and job creation as part of Bolivia's economic development, particularly in sectors such as lithium and other strategic minerals.
