

Brussels, **26 AVR. 2019**
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Ms Ana Gomes MEP
European Parliament
Brussels

Dear Ana,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 2019 and for bringing to our attention your concerns about developments in Cambodia.

We have taken note of the arrest warrants issued last month against several Cambodian opposition members currently living abroad. This is indeed a disappointing development.

In February 2018, the EU Foreign Ministers made very clear how seriously the EU views the deterioration of the situation in Cambodia by adopting a set of Council Conclusions. We continue urging the Cambodian government to take all necessary measures to establish a political environment which respects democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

I had the opportunity to reiterate the EU's concerns during my meeting last October with the Cambodian Prime Minister.

As you point out, on 11 February 2019, the EU launched a procedure to temporarily withdraw tariff preferences granted to Cambodia under the Everything But Arms (EBA) arrangement over concerns related to serious human rights and labour rights violations in the country. The launch of the formal EBA withdrawal procedure marks the start of a six-month monitoring and evaluation period.

The EBA legal process has clear and short timelines. It is more urgent than ever that Cambodia adopts concrete and credible steps to restore a functioning democracy.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation in Cambodia.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini