

Brussels 28 MAR 2018
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Ms Ana Maria Gomes MEP
European Parliament
Brussels

Dear Ana,

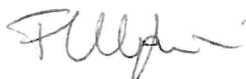
I would like to thank you for your letter of 6 March 2018, wherein you refer to the legal proceedings against Angolan journalist and human rights defender Rafael Marques de Morais.

As you may be aware, the trial of Rafael Marques de Morais - and of the journalist Mariano Bras - opened on 19 March and was adjourned until 16 April. A representative of the European Union Delegation was present in the courtroom. We will continue to follow the proceedings with interest.

It is naturally very important that Angola's international partners seize the opportunity afforded by the transition in the country to encourage and support structural reforms, including in the field of human rights. We will continue to give a central place to human rights in our political dialogue with Angola.

Respect for fundamental freedoms, inclusivity and accountability to citizens are paramount if any country is to be able to deliver reforms that stand the test of time. Naturally, respect for Article 44 of the Constitution of Angola on the freedom of the press will be a key element. In this context, please note that the EU Delegation will launch a call for proposals under the European Initiative on Democracy and Human Rights that will cover initiatives on access to information and freedom of expression.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini