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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.3.2024)

The EU has been monitoring closely the dramatic deterioration of the security situation in Ecuador. In a recent phone call with President Noboa, the High Representative/Vice-President expressed the EU's commitment to increase and broaden the EU's support to Ecuador in its efforts to fight organised crime.

The EU has been supporting Ecuador through regional programmes aimed at combating transnational organised crime (EL PAcCTO, COPOLAD, EUROFRONT), as well as bilateral cooperation activities, such as the emergency support for prisons security, the assistance for the security assessment of the ports of Guayaquil and Posorja (which fits within the framework of the EU roadmap against organised crime and drugs trafficking published in October 2023) and the support to the establishment of a national intelligence and coordination centre.

The EU is currently considering additional cooperation in this area, including the exchange of information and joint operations between Ecuador and European security agencies, with Europol at the forefront, as it was agreed between EU and interior ministers from Latin America and the Caribbean in a Joint Declaration in September 2023. Work is underway to station an Ecuadorian liaison officer at Europol and to negotiate an agreement enabling the exchange of personal data between Europol and Ecuador.

Tackling the crisis in Ecuador is also about reinforcing democracy, the rule of law and human rights and addressing the root-causes. The EU is currently implementing ten actions and projects (EUR 22 million) addressing democracy consolidation and good governance in Ecuador, while remaining Ecuador's most important cooperation partner, with a portfolio of active projects worth EUR 130 million until 2027 and EUR 1 billion of European Investment Bank loans.