

**Question for written answer E-009446/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Santiago Fisas Ayxelà (PPE)

Subject: Political representation of the EU in Panama

The EU is the leading foreign investor in Panama. The coming into force of the Association Agreement between the EU and Central America, to which Panama is a contracting party, acknowledges the importance of political dialogue with all the countries in the Central American region.

The intention to maintain and strengthen such links is shown by the recent declarations of the High Representative Federica Mogherini during her hearing on 6 October before the European Parliament: 'Let me also mention Latin America amongst the key partners. [...] There is huge potential there in political terms and in economic terms that is not to be taken for granted, and we need to have political investment there as a European Union'.

Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that, although the European Union has set up a delegation in each of the Central American countries, at present the only EU representation in Panama is a small cooperation office run by the Commission (DG Development and Cooperation — EuropeAid). It cannot therefore be said that the EU has proper political representation in Panama.

1. Could the Commission explain why there is no EU delegation in Panama?
2. What are its plans for the future with respect to political representation of the EU in Panama?