

**Question for written answer E-003079/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The EU-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and respect for human rights

Reading the 10th Report of the Asturias-Ireland delegation for verification of the status of human rights in Colombia and the information published by the Somos Defensores [We are Defenders] programme has made me realise how serious the situation of human rights is in Colombia and the extent to which those who defend those rights are being persecuted.

The figures for attacks on the defenders of human rights in recent years are terrifying: the killings rose from 32 in 2010 to 78 in 2013; and in 2014 there were 626 cases of coercion and 55 killings.

In addition, the Colombian Government's insistence on promoting legislative reforms that extend the military criminal jurisdiction, which have been strongly criticised by numerous UN special rapporteurs, is worrying.

Taking into account that Article 1 of the EU-Colombia Free Trade Agreement lays down obligations regarding human rights which are an 'essential element' of the Agreement, I would like to know:

How does the Commission intend to verify the application of Article 1 of the Agreement?

What is the mechanism established to validate compliance with this 'essential' obligation?

What are the criteria and sources that will be used for this validation?