

**Question for written answer E-003085/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Paul Brannen (S&D) and Jude Kirton-Darling (S&D)**

Subject: Criminalisation of tribal people as poachers

The European Union participated in the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade last February, at which it agreed to the 'London Declaration'. This declaration called for participants to 'strengthen the legal framework and facilitate law enforcement' in relation to wildlife protection but made no mention of tribal peoples' rights.

As you may know, tribal people are often considered 'poachers' by their governments when they hunt to feed their families. This violates their right to hunt under agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Labour Organisation Convention No 169. As a result, they face arrest and beatings, torture and even death.

Tribal people therefore risk being caught in the crossfire in the war against poaching, unless this is explicitly addressed.

We understand that the EU will take part in the forthcoming follow-up conference in Kasane, Botswana on 25 March. We are calling for participants at this conference to issue a statement recognising tribal people's right to hunt for subsistence. As a significant donor to conservation programmes, we believe the EU has a special responsibility to this effect.

What steps is the Commission taking in the light of the upcoming conference to ensure that tribal people are not criminalised as poachers when they hunt to feed their families?