

**Question for written answer E-004622/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Imports of goods derived from illegal deforestation

On 17 March 2015, the NGO Fern published a report entitled 'Stolen Goods: the EU's complicity in illegal tropical deforestation'. The report shows that the European Union is the world's biggest importer of products resulting from illegal deforestation. Illegal clearance of land for farming was responsible for more than half of the destruction of tropical forest since 2000.

The report states that, in 2012, The EU imported soya, beef, leather and palm oil worth EUR 6 billion which had been cultivated or reared on land converted by illegal deforestation. This accounted for around one-quarter of world trade in these goods. The main importers are Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

However, in 2008 the EU undertook to make every effort to stop illegal deforestation by 2030.

1. Was the Commission aware of this situation before publication of the Fern report?
2. Does the Commission plan to propose measures seeking to prevent the importation of goods derived from illegal deforestation?
3. If so, what kind of measures might be considered?