

**Question for written answer E-005509/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL), Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL) and João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Continued attacks and killings in Colombia

Human rights violations in Colombia continue on a daily and recurring basis. In 2012, there were 357 attacks, including 69 murders; in 2013, there were 366 attacks, including 78 murders and in 2014, there were 380 attacks, including 45 murders (according to the annual and half-yearly reports of the *Somos Defensores* programme). The victims are mainly community leaders, particularly from rural areas, and trade unionists. According to programme records, 74 % of those responsible for these attacks belong to paramilitary groups who retain their power with the support and complicity of the forces of law and order. Between 2009 and 2013, 95 % of the murders went unpunished.

In answer to question E-0421/10 on the EU-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which entered into force in 2013, the European Commission stated that: 'A robust human rights clause has been negotiated and will — if necessary — permit the unilateral suspension of concessions in case of human rights violations in the signatory countries.'

In light of the above, we would like to ask the Commission:

1. What is its assessment of the human rights situation in Colombia?
2. Taking into account the dramatic humanitarian situation in Colombia, does the Commission not consider it necessary to activate the safeguard clause on human rights for the suspension of the aforementioned agreement?