

**Question for written answer E-007201/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD), Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD), Eleonora Evi (EFDD) and Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)**

Subject: Construction of the Belo Monte dam in Brazil

Commissioned by the Brazilian Government, the Belo Monte dam is a hydroelectric dam complex currently under construction in the Amazon region of Brazil. If completed, it will be the third largest dam in the world, and will flood vast areas of land, dry up parts of the Xingu River, a major Amazon tributary, and devastate the rain forest, seriously endangering the livelihoods of the indigenous people living in the area.

As stated in a question in 2012, this issue has led to protests and interventions at all levels.

Several European companies are involved in the project (Alstom, Voith Siemens, Andritz and others) and the EU has allocated a substantial amount of funding to energy projects in Brazil, including a loan of EUR 500 million to the Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development, to provide financing for SMEs wishing to invest in these sectors.

1. Does the Commission intend to address this specific issue under the scope of the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership, based on the conditionality regarding respect for human rights included in said partnership agreement?
2. Does it intend to make a stand here to defend the rights of the region's indigenous people and to protect the environment, in light of the commitments made at the Rio+20 summit, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Convention No 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ratified by Brazil in 2002), and in line with the request made by the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights to Brazil in April 2011 to halt work on the dam and engage in dialogue with the indigenous people living in the area?
3. What kind of measures does it intend to take to ensure that the European companies involved in the project implement the OECD Guidelines and the UN Guiding Principles on corporate social and environmental responsibility?