

**Question for written answer E-004748/2016  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL) and Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Wave of violence against human rights defenders and social, political and trade union leaders in Colombia: urgent suspension of the EU-Colombia Partnership Agreement

As signalled by a group of EU Member State ambassadors and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the situation for human rights defenders, political and social leaders and trade unionists in Colombia is alarming. They are being left unprotected and assassinations and attacks on them are being ignored.

A human rights defender is being killed every week. Owing to the activities of paramilitaries, who are operating with complete impunity given the passivity of the Colombian Government, these numbers have been increasing year after year, rising from 37 killings in 2012 to 63 killings and 251 people receiving threats in 2015.

The situation is also serious for trade unionists and members of left-wing movements.

In view of this situation, will the High Representative demand the immediate suspension of the EU-Colombia Agreement? If not, what other circumstances would lead her to propose such a suspension and comply with the second article?

Will the High Representative increase the pressure on the Colombian Government to safeguard the activity of the Office of the United Nations in the post-conflict phase?

Will she demand that the Trust Fund approved for Columbia be used to combat paramilitarism and provide effective protection for human rights defenders?