

Question for written answer E-004873/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jiří Maštálka (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Land grabbing

According to a study published recently by the European Parliament, the EU does not fully appreciate the scale of land grabbing and the human rights violations that often accompany it. The study shows that European entities have, in 323 cases, seized about 5.8 hectares of land outside the EU. This evidently profitable activity causes great harm to the environment (in particular the destruction of woods and forests) and capitalises on local poverty, which pushes down the price of land for foreign buyers.

How is the Commission planning to tackle this problem?

How can it prevent practices that hurt the interests of small farmers, builders and other inhabitants who do not have enough economic and political power to defend themselves?