

**Question for written answer E-005043/2016  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights in Côte d'Ivoire

It seems that in Côte d'Ivoire residents of protected forests live in fear of arbitrary eviction and have suffered extortion and physical abuse at the hands of forest conservation authorities.

Dispatches from Human Rights Watch state that the Forestry Development Agency (Société de Développement des Forêts, or SODEFOR), a state agency under the Water and Forests Ministry, regularly evicts farmers without warning, often burning their homes and possessions in the process. Farmers are also frequently beaten and humiliated during eviction operations.

Is the VP/HR going to hold talks with the Ivorian Government to call for a halt to all forced evictions, for investigations into, and prosecution of, abuses, and for the introduction of legislation providing farmers with the protections required by international law?