

**Question for written answer E-006028/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Chocolate companies and deforestation in Africa

The extensive illegal farming and production of cocoa for chocolate companies is leading to the destruction of forests in African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. These two countries are currently the world's largest cocoa producers, representing 60% of global production.

An investigation by environmental NGO Mighty Earth¹ has shown that national parks and protected areas have been converted into cocoa plantations, with disastrous results for the environment. Since 2000, Côte d'Ivoire has lost around 15% of its forests.

This illegal cocoa production is often mixed with legally produced cocoa and ends up at major chocolate companies in Europe, whose products are traded throughout the EU. Mars, Mondelez and Nestlé have not denied that illegally produced cocoa beans have entered their supply chains².

In view of the above:

1. What has the Commission done to stop the import and processing of illegal cocoa and the trading of products suspected of containing such cocoa in the EU?
2. What political initiatives will the Commission launch to work with the authorities of the affected countries to stop this environmental disaster, and motivate people to turn to other forms of work that can both sustain them and respect the environment?

¹ <http://www.mightyearth.org/chocolatesdarksecret>

² https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/13/chocolate-industry-drives-rainforest-disaster-in-ivory-coast?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other