**Question for written answer E-004006/2018**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Pascal Arimont (PPE)**

Subject: Palm oil and the clear-felling of rainforest

According to Greenpeace, a tract of rainforest of approximately 4 000 hectares in the Indonesian province of Papua has been destroyed to make way for a new palm oil plantation. The company responsible apparently supplies palm oil to major groups including Nestlé, Unilever, Mars and PepsiCo. As well as the damage to fauna, flora and the environment in the areas of rainforest affected, deforestation threatens the livelihood of the people who live there.

On 4 April 2017, Parliament adopted a resolution on ‘palm oil and deforestation of rainforests’ in an effort to tackle the negative impact of unsustainable palm oil production. The resolution called, among other things, for a single certification scheme to guarantee that only sustainably produced palm oil enters the EU market. It also called for the introduction of sustainability criteria for palm oil and products containing it that are imported into the EU.

1. What practical steps is the EU taking to counter the widespread clear-felling of rainforest to make way for palm oil production?
2. What specifically has the Commission done so far to implement the measures called for in Parliament’s resolution of 4 April 2017? What is the schedule for the next steps?
3. Does the Commission intend to prevent the import to the EU of palm oil produced at the cost of severe damage to flora and fauna?