Question for written answer E-000509/2019 to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative) Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Changes to the Colombian peace agreement by the Colombian Government

Through bilateral cooperation and its Trust Fund for Colombia, the EU has repeatedly demonstrated its political and financial support for the effective implementation of the peace agreement signed between the Colombian Government and the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* – *Ejército Popular*, giving priority to populations in rural areas, as they have been disproportionately affected by the armed conflict.

On 26 November 2019, the Colombian Minister for Foreign Affairs announced to the European Parliament that his Government was seeking four substantial changes to the peace agreement<sup>1</sup>, including a return to forced eradication of illegal crops, when the original plan was for voluntary replacement plans to be introduced under which consensual replacement programmes and lasting production projects would be followed.

- 1. How might the announced changes to the peace deal affect the EU's financial and political support for the implementation of that agreement?
- 2. With regard, in particular, to comprehensive rural reform, which is linked to the replacement of illegal crops, does the EU have any monitoring tools which can ensure that Trust Fund support does not end up financing programmes that go against the provisions of the peace agreement?

1175543.EN PE 633.563

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