

**Question for written answer E-000707/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Possible infringement of the property rights of EU citizens in South Africa

The government of the Republic of South Africa has tabled an Expropriation Bill¹. This bill contains provisions that in many cases allow the expropriation of property without any compensation being paid to the owners and leave a wide scope for interpretation. Such cases include land acquired for speculative purposes, land occupied or used by a labour tenant who cultivates it or where the market value of the land is less than the value of the direct state investment or subsidy spent either to buy it, or on capital improvements made². In this context, doubts arise as to whether the bill is compatible with international law as regards the protection of property and more generally the protection of the human rights of the current owners, many of whom are citizens of the Member States of the European Union.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- 1) What view does it take of the above bill?
- 2) How will it protect EU citizens' property rights which may be infringed should this bill enter into force?

¹ https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201812/42127gon1409s.pdf

² HYPERLINK "<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/expropriation-bill-types-of-property-that-can-be-expropriated-without-compensation-2018-12>" <https://www.businessinsider.co.za/expropriation-bill-types-of-property-that-can-be-expropriated-without-compensation-2018-12>