

**Question for written answer P-003072/2015  
to the Council  
Rule 130  
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Implementation of the human rights clause in the Trade Agreement with Colombia

The 10th Report of the Asturian and Irish Delegation to Verify the Human Rights Situation in Colombia and information from the We are Defenders Programme have enabled me to appreciate fully the seriousness of the human rights situation in Colombia and the extent to which those who defend these rights are persecuted.

The figures for attacks in recent years on human rights defenders are terrifying: the number of assassinations rose from 32 in 2010 to 78 in 2013, and in 2014 there were 626 instances of coercion and 55 assassinations.

A further matter for concern is the Colombian Government's insistence on pushing through legislative reforms which expand the military courts' jurisdiction in criminal cases. These reforms have been heavily criticised by a great many UN Special Rapporteurs.

Article 1 of the Trade Agreement between Colombia and the European Union sets out human rights obligations which constitute an 'essential element' of the Agreement. I would therefore like to know:

How does the Council plan to verify implementation of Article 1 of the Agreement?

What is the Council's procedure for monitoring compliance with this 'essential' obligation?

What criteria and sources will be used in monitoring compliance?