

**Question for written answer P-003854/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Human rights and the EU-Colombia trade agreement

Article 1 of the trade agreement between the EU and Colombia reads as follows: 'Respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and for the principle of the rule of law, underpins the internal and international policies of the Parties. Respect for these principles constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.'

The 'Somos Defensores' ('We are Defenders') programme states that:

- the number of attacks in Colombia against human rights defenders increased from 357 in 2012 (the year the agreement was ratified) to more than 600 in 2014;
 - more than 50 human rights defenders have been murdered every year since 2012 (55 were murdered in 2014);
 - more than 150 000 people are victims of forced displacement every year in Colombia;
 - the Colombian Government has insisted on reforming the military criminal justice system, despite warnings not to do so from 12 UN special rapporteurs.
1. In light of Colombia's repeated violations of Article 1 of the EU-Colombia trade agreement, what measures will the Commission take to ensure that human rights are respected in that country?
 2. What needs to happen in Colombia for the EU to publicly express its concern about the situation?