

**Question for written answer E-011295/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Liam Aylward (ALDE) and Brian Crowley (ALDE)

Subject: Colombia and the Santos administration

A recent UN report on the situation of human rights in Colombia states:

'OHCHR-Colombia is concerned about the continuing homicides, threats, attacks, information theft, illegal surveillance and intimidation targeting human rights defenders and their organizations in different parts of the country. Victims include community defenders and leaders, members of Juntas de Acción Comunal, Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples, municipal ombudspersons, trade union members, staff of the National Ombudsperson's Early Warning System (EWS) and journalists. These acts have been attributed to State agents, members of post-demobilization groups, and members of FARCEP and the National Liberation Army (ELN).'

1. Does the Commission have any plans to implement policy that will aid the situation of human rights defenders in Colombia?
2. Are there any measures in place to ensure that development policy concerning Colombia takes into account the need for increased protection for human rights defenders and community leaders?
3. What action does the Commission propose to take with regard to the precarious situation facing trade unionists?
4. What are the Commission's intentions for further development policy regarding rural development and sustainable peace-building within Colombia?