

**Question for written answer E-008007/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Jürgen Klute (GUE/NGL) and Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights violations relating to the Conga mining project in Peru

Since November 2011, peaceful local opposition in Cajamarca, Peru, to Newmont Mining Corporation's Conga project has been met with violent repression by the Peruvian government. Conga is threatening the essential land and water supplies of local communities. Even polls show that 78 % of the Cajamarcan people reject the mining project. On 3 July 2012 the first demonstrators fell victim to this conflict, with four people being killed when police opened fire on the public. A year after that tragic event, no one has been held accountable, and the murders have yet to be seriously investigated. So far, several international organisations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have condemned the brutality and repression employed by the Peruvian government against the population of Cajamarca.

- The EU has its share of responsibility in this conflict. Firstly, Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, HSBC Bank and Société General – all European companies – either own shares in Newmont Mining, have lent it money, or act as their bookrunners. Considering the Commission's 2011 communication on Corporate Social Responsibility, does the Vice-President / High Representative not think it appropriate to investigate these companies' participation in Newmont Mining?
- Secondly, the last EU-Peru-Columbia Free Trade Agreement contained a roadmap. In the light of the above-mentioned human right violations and recalling that this roadmap was supported by the Commission, but criticised by the GUE/NGL Parliamentary Group, the Greens/EFA, NGOs, and trade unions for its non-binding mechanism regarding the protection and improvement of labour and civil rights in the countries involved, could the Vice-President / High Representative outline how the EU and the Peruvian government plan to implement this roadmap in pursuit of its declared objectives?
- Considering the violent repression of civil liberties, the harassment of anti-Conga activists and the forceful pursuit of the mining project by the Peruvian authorities, all in clear violation of international human rights conventions and the rule of law in Peru, does the Vice-President / High Representative not think it appropriate to question the Peruvian authorities on their handling of the Conga affair? How does the Vice-President / High Representative view these events?