

**Question for written answer E-008951/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Mining in Columbia

The European Union is a major consumer of raw materials, some of which come from Latin America and, more specifically, from Colombia. In 2009, the EU imported 56 % of all Colombia's coal sales.

A report by the Office of the Comptroller General of Colombia (*Contraloría General de la República*) shows that some coal mining companies do not respect the rights of local communities. The report stresses the link between mining and oil extraction areas and areas in which human rights are being violated through forced relocation, non-consultation of indigenous peoples, draining of water resources and pollution detrimental to the health of the local population. 80% of human rights violations in Colombia are committed in these areas, which cover just 35% of the country.

The EU requires that European companies declare the income they have made both in the countries in which they operate and in their country of origin. However, the *Contraloría* states that, in Colombia, some extraction companies have engaged in tax evasion.

1. How is the Commission ensuring that European mining companies and companies trading in raw materials meet their transparency and tax obligations in Colombia?
2. Are the Commission and the EAS aware of the human rights violations linked with the activities of European mining companies?
3. How do they intend to ensure respect for human rights, trade union rights and environmental protection measures in the context of trade with Colombia?