

**Question for written answer E-005682/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Measures to weaken trade unions in Colombia

In addition to violence against trade unionists (20 murders in 2014), mechanisms continue to exist in Colombia which weaken unions. One of these is the phenomenon of 'collective pacts'.

According to reports, these 'pacts' are used by companies for three purposes. Firstly, as a preventive strategy to prevent the emergence of unions. Secondly, as a containment strategy so that unions disappear or do not develop. Thirdly, as a strategy so that larger unions lose the capacity to negotiate and strike. According to the Colombian National Union School (*Escuela Nacional Sindical*), between 2011 and 2012 the use of collective pacts grew by 23 %, while the use of collective agreements reached after collective bargaining with unions grew by only 1 %. Of the 215 collective pacts signed in 2012, 58 were signed at the same time as collective bargaining processes were taking place with trade unions. These pacts included offers of the same or greater benefits to non-unionised workers who did not join the union or benefit from collective agreements.

In light of the European Union's responsibilities under the sustainable development chapter of the EU-Colombia-Peru Trade Agreement, how will the EU redress this violation of Colombian worker's right of association?