

Question for written answer E-006221/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Violation of rights of indigenous communities in Malaysia

According to an Amnesty International report, indigenous cultures in Malaysia are at risk of disappearing in a country where one in every ten people belongs to an indigenous community. These communities are victims of persecution, intimidation, arbitrary detentions and other forms of violence including murder, as was the case of activist Bill Kayong in 2016, for peacefully opposing the destruction of Malaysian forests and the divestiture of their ancestral lands. The EU is currently negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) with Malaysia. Parliament recently approved by an overwhelming majority a 'Report on violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world' with numerous recommendations to protect indigenous and rural communities. In light of this:

- How does the EU intend to advocate, together with the recently-elected coalition government, for the rights of indigenous people in Malaysia and preserve their traditional territories?
- Is the EU going to safeguard these concerns in the final report for the Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) that will be used in FTA negotiations and guarantee that this will not end up making the situation worse for the aforementioned communities?