

**Question for written answer E-006722/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sergio Berlato (ECR)

Subject: Allegations of abuse by the WWF in the Congo Basin, India and Nepal

In March 2019, following a number of investigations into alleged human rights violations by WWF-related entities in the Congo Basin, India and Nepal, a report was commissioned to look into those violations.

The report, which was published, denounces human rights violations in those areas by park rangers who, for years, have been committing thefts, beatings and killings in the name of anti-poaching, even against women and children.

The report condemns the lack of remedial action by the WWF, which, although aware of the abuse, has continued to finance, support and cooperate with the 'ecoguards' in various ways, concealing information with the sole aim of protecting its reputation, and showing a complete lack of transparency. The most surprising thing is that, ironically, the group of experts did not hold anyone responsible for the situation, arguing that being aware of the abuse allegations and continuing to support ecoguards does not necessarily violate human rights standards per se.

In the light of the above, can the Commission say:

whether it is possible to ascertain the truth of the above allegations;

if so, what it intends to do to protect the rights of the victims of this abuse?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Carlo Fidanza (ECR)