

**Question for written answer E-001144/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: EUR 1 billion in development aid to Côte d'Ivoire

The Commission is considering providing EUR 1 billion (!) in development aid to Côte d'Ivoire (over a period of six years). The aid is intended to contribute to the transition to sustainable cocoa production. However, Côte d'Ivoire is not a particularly stable country, but a country where tribal conflicts arise repeatedly and which is not unaffected by the conflicts in the Sahel region. According to an official report, the help in this form is needed to enable the country to comply with the stricter EU legislation, and this at a time when many European citizens, workers, the self-employed and businesses are having to grapple with major problems as a consequence of the mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic by the Commission and the Member States.

1. What share of the amount pledged does the Commission intend to channel through NGOs active in Côte d'Ivoire?
2. What proportion of the amount pledged will the NGOs be allowed to use to cover their own costs (salaries, travel, administration, communication)?
3. In the Commission's view, and given the huge level of Chinese investment in infrastructure in this unstable country, how high is the risk that China will reap the benefits of EU development aid to Côte d'Ivoire?