

**Question for written answer E-000451/2022**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: The EU's role in land restitution in Colombia

Access to dispossessed land in Colombia is a key factor in implementing the peace agreements. In early 2020, the Land Restitution Unit claimed that 80% of applications had gone beyond administrative processing. However, 65% of these applications were rejected because they were not logged in the Registry of Forcibly Abandoned and Dispossessed Land, thus rendering them ineligible.

According to organisations monitoring implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Act, around 50% of these applications were rejected owing to incorrect application of the rules. As a result, some 32 000 families have lost their land and remain unable to recover it.

The EU is striving to help consolidate peace and develop the areas hardest hit by the armed conflict by providing budgetary support to the Colombian Government and its institutions.

In what way is the EU ensuring that the funds it invests in the peace agreements, in particular in local governance and land restitution, are actually being used to support the victims of the conflict and not to deny their rights?