

**Question for written answer E-001647/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protecting Colombia's natural environment

Environmental protection is prioritised in both the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the EU and Colombia in September 2021, as well as in the new 2021-2027 MIP¹ for development cooperation between the EU and Colombia. The EU stands as an ally with Colombia in the fight against illegal deforestation, climate change and the destruction of biodiversity. Despite this, Colombia's development plan has established a deforestation target of 880 000 ha for the period 2018-2022, which is still extremely high. In addition, the plan promotes hydraulic fracturing and the aerial spraying of illicit crops with glyphosate, which both have serious repercussions on human health and the environment. According to Global Witness, 65 environmental activists were murdered in Colombia in 2020, with the majority of the perpetrators going unpunished.

We would therefore like a response to the following:

1. How is the Commission ensuring that its cooperation funds are not being used to implement Colombian Government policies that may cause environmental damage?
2. How is the Commission ensuring that its development cooperation funds are having a positive impact on both the environment and people?
3. How will environmental cooperation projects with civil society be carried out?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/mip-2021-c2021-8995-colombia-annex_en.pdf