

**Question for written answer E-002261/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ibán García Del Blanco (S&D)**

**Subject:** Funding mechanisms to support the strengthening of communities in Colombia

As the Trust Fund nears its end, and in view of the EU's reaffirmed willingness to support peace building in Colombia, funding mechanisms to support communities to become stronger and more sustainable must be established as a matter of priority, given that these communities have, on multiple occasions, promoted territorial peace initiatives and been the main victims of the conflict. To this end, these funds should be accessible and designed to reach the territories effectively. Communities and human rights organisations are often not aware of funding possibilities and they cannot meet the EU's many bureaucratic and structural requirements. This is very discriminatory and lacks a real differential approach.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. How does the Commission intend to establish accessible outreach and training mechanisms for local communities and grassroots organisations?
2. How will it involve communities in formulating funds that can strengthen them and offer them sustainability with a view to building peace?
3. What monitoring mechanisms, with civil society participation, is it planning to put in place to prevent further corruption scandals and the misuse of European funds, such as the OCAD Paz scandal?

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