

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3006/09
by Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Fighting corruption in Nigeria

The Commission may be aware of the case of Nuhu Ribadu, former Executive Chairman of the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Nigeria, who was dismissed from his post on 22 December 2008 by the Nigerian Police Service Commission.

Under the leadership of Ribadu, who was appointed in 2007, the EFCC was seen as taking effective measures to tackle corruption in Nigeria. In 2008, Ribadi was awarded the World Bank's Jit Gill Memorial Award for Outstanding Public Service in recognition of his courageous anti-corruption drive.

Many believe that Ribadu's dismissal was politically motivated, and he is reported to fear for his personal safety. In November 2008, the International Anti-Corruption Conference adopted a 'Resolution on protection of Nuhu Ribadu'.

As well as the safety of Ribadu, an important issue is the continued integrity and transparency of the EFCC, now chaired by Farida Mzamber Waziri.

Nigeria is currently the largest single ACP recipient under the Tenth European Development Fund, receiving €580 million over the period 2008-2013. The EFCC itself has received significant funding from the EU.

1. Does the Commission feel that satisfactory progress is still being made in the fight against corruption in Nigeria?
2. What measures might the Commission undertake to ensure the protection of people previously and currently engaged in such work?