

Question for written answer P-005236/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Emma McClarkin (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - G8-Tanzania Transparency Partnerships on Lands and Extractives

Two new G8-Tanzania Transparency Partnerships on Lands and Extractives were launched ahead of the G8 summit held in Northern Ireland in June 2013. As well as increasing transparency and accountability in the management and use of natural resources to ensure that benefits are widely shared amongst all Tanzanian citizens, they are also designed to strengthen the security of tenure rights of all landholders and improve transparency over large-scale land deals. The intention is that this will attract increased foreign and national private-sector investment.

However, I have been made aware by some of my constituents that pressure has been put on foreign investors who own land in Tanzania, including intimidation, meaning that they live in fear that they will lose their land.

Given that the Council and Commission are both represented in the G8 (now G7), can the High Representative tell me if she is aware of these pressures on foreign investors in Tanzania and whether she believes that this contravenes the partnerships created last year?

Can the High Representative raise these issues with the Tanzanian Government so as to ensure that foreign landowners do not have to live in fear that their land will be taken from them?