

Question for written answer E-015168/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Narco-paramilitaries in Colombia

In view of the peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the FARC and the prospect of building a lasting sustainable peace, the persistence of the narco-paramilitary groups is concerning. In its tenth follow-up report, the *Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz* (INDEPAZ) claims the presence of at least 14 narco-paramilitary structures across 338 municipalities.

The *Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica* highlights the inadequacy of the 2005 paramilitary demobilisation process and the actions of those groups and their successors in the same areas, with the same links to the economic and political elite and the security forces “to carry out mining and oil operations and to develop agri-businesses with a view towards producing biofuel and grain for the international markets”.

The *Programa Somos Defensores* recorded 577 attacks between January and September 2015 (which included 51 murders) against rights campaigners, 72 % of which are attributed to narco-paramilitaries.

Is the High Representative aware of this situation? What is the EU doing to ensure that European companies do not benefit from the actions of narco-paramilitary groups in their investment areas? Does the High Representative feel that the political dialogue around human rights is having an effect, in view of the increase in attacks against rights campaigners?