

**Question for written answer E-014606/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)

Subject: Imports of illegally harvested timber

The Court of Auditors has recently published a highly critical report regarding the implementation of legal provisions introduced in Europe to prevent imports of illegally harvested timber and derivatives, indicating that four EU Member States (Spain, Greece, Hungary and Romania) are failing to comply, thereby facilitating European market access for illegally harvested timber, a business worth EUR 22bn annually worldwide. The auditors accordingly urge Brussels to review the matter, set clearer objectives, ensure compliance with current legislation, improve assessment procedures, make use of independent certification bodies and support local initiatives in third countries designed to prevent illegal logging.

In view of the Commission's responses to the points contained in the report:

1. When will it be possible to adopt improved verification procedures designed to prevent infringements and bring into line countries that are failing to comply?
2. Does the Commission intend to step up the use of ICT applications to ensure the traceability of specific wood products and derivatives?
3. Is the Commission aware of, and giving support to, the international fund for initiatives such as that adopted in Brazil this spring to create a task force to combat illegal logging, in a bid to stamp out this practice in Amazonia by 2020?