

**Question for written answer E-015194/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Javi López (S&D)**

Subject: Peace and criminalisation of social protest in Colombia

In view of the increase in social mobilisation in recent years, protest has been criminalised and rules have been issued that facilitate the violation of the rights of protestors. In 2012, the number of people detained in such circumstances was 542, while in 2013 that number was around 3 000. The use of non-lethal weapons at social demonstrations has left hundreds of people with permanent physical injuries. In rural areas, there have been reports of abuse against women and children and intimidation of residents. Between January and May 2015, 33 cases of attacks by law enforcement personnel on private citizens in relation to protests were recorded.

Given that social mobilisation is a legitimate way for citizens to demand rights and ensure that their voices are heard in times of peace, how has the EU discussed this issue in its human rights dialogue with Colombia?

What commitment has the Colombian Government made and what monitoring will the European delegation be carrying out?