

**Question for written answer E-015449/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Progress report on EU re-engagement with Zimbabwe

In November 2014 the EU allowed the appropriate measures under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement to expire. Since the expiration of these measures, the EU has agreed to the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Zimbabwe, a multi-year aid plan for the period 2014-2020 to provide EUR 234 million to 'help Zimbabwe become a more democratic and prosperous country'.

According to an EU spokesperson, 'the EU remains committed to further enhancing its engagement with Zimbabwe and looks forward to continuing with its efforts in order to support progress in the consolidation of democracy, respect for rule of law, and human rights. It will engage in a comprehensive and balanced political dialogue with Zimbabwe, based on Article 8 of the ACP/EU Partnership, to foster mutual understanding and to facilitate the establishment of agreed priorities'.

1. What is the current status of the Article 8 political dialogue?
2. What does the EU view as the key areas / topics to address in these engagements?
3. In the framework of the European Development Fund, the EU has signed five agreements worth EUR 89 million with Zimbabwe, which under the terms of the NIP has agreed to involve civil society organisations. What types of agreements have been made for civil society to monitor and evaluate the implementation of these programmes?