

**Question for written answer E-015389/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
László Tőkés (PPE)**

**Subject:** Forest governance in the context of climate change and property restitution in Romania

The Paris climate change conference held in December 2015 convening cross-sector participants from government, civil society, business and finance has created an unparalleled opportunity for the EU to contribute to completing a binding framework for reducing man-made emissions for post-2020 and addressing global warming.

Alongside the critical challenge of emissions, protecting forests from being cut down is a key part of tackling climate change. The UN estimates that the loss of around 12 million hectares of forest a year is responsible for around 11 % of global greenhouse gas emissions. Preventing the destruction and degradation of forests, as well as reforestation and forest landscape restoration, must therefore be treated as an urgent priority, as forests play an essential role in protecting the planet.

In the region of Transylvania, Romania – where forests, as private property confiscated by the communist regime, have been only partially restituted – illegal logging, corruption, neglect and sabotage of existing legal regulations have pushed the region to the edge of ecological and economic catastrophe.

In the context of climate change, how does the Commission plan to strengthen forest governance in Romania, given the close link between the difficult process of private property restitution and the phenomenon of deforestation?