

Question for written answer E-001647/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Cancellation of VPAs and replacement by Forest Partnerships

Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) prevent forest loss by implementing legal reform, improving law enforcement and increasing community incomes in several tropical forested countries. The Commission has proposed unilateral termination of the Cameroonian VPA and informed the Liberian Government of its firm intention to terminate the EU-Liberia VPA. It also proposes replacing both VPAs with Forest Partnerships – non-binding frameworks with no role for Parliament and limited public information.

The Commission's actions threaten the EU's reputation in these countries and risk accelerating forest loss. In Liberia, both the government and civil society have voiced serious concerns about the EU's approach.

1. Why has the Commission chosen to terminate the VPA unilaterally without proper consultation and due process, and why has there been no comprehensive, multi-stakeholder evaluation of the EU-Liberia VPA's achievements?
2. After being stalled by the previous government, implementation of the EU-Liberia VPA has seen progress under the current Boakai administration. Why has the Commission suddenly decided on termination, rather than strengthening the VPA and designing the Forest Partnership to create a mutual reinforcement?
3. Given the importance of Parliament, Council and civil society oversight for forests, what role will these groups have in drafting, approving and monitoring Forest Partnerships?

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