

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000577/25

to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (Pfe), Barbara Bonte (Pfe), Branko Grims (PPE), Anna Brylka (Pfe), Fernand Kartheiser (ECR), Jorge Buxadé Villalba (Pfe), Gerolf Annemans (Pfe), Philippe Olivier (Pfe), Gilles Pennelle (Pfe), Sarah Knafo (ESN), Roman Haider (Pfe), Valérie Deloge (Pfe), Angéline Furet (Pfe), Nikola Bartůšek (Pfe), Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR)

(7 February 2025)

Subject: Expropriation without compensation in South Africa

On 23 January 2025, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law a bill authorising seizures — by the state and without compensation — of land belonging to white farmers ⁽¹⁾. It replaces the Expropriation Act of 1975, under which the State was obliged to compensate landowners if they accepted the deal, and bases its legitimacy on the notions of justice, equitability and public interest.

It should be noted that several national parties, some of which are themselves part of the Government of National Unity coalition, have clearly contested the constitutionality of such a law and even deemed it an aberration ⁽²⁾.

1. Is the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is surely following the situation closely, aware of the risks this law poses to the security of a much-targeted community and respect for private property?
2. What initiatives does she intend to take to prevent discrimination and violence against a minority that has already been the victim of considerable ill treatment?

Supporter ⁽³⁾

Submitted: 7.2.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission

(25 April 2025)

The EU monitors closely developments, including legislative proposals, and acts adopted in South Africa. This includes the Expropriation Act (Act No 13 of 2024), which was passed in 2024 by the previous South African Parliament and which was assented by President Ramaphosa on 20 December 2024 ⁽¹⁾.

The EU is aware of the domestic discussions that have taken place in South Africa in relation to this act. According to information at the EU's disposal, the act is yet to enter into force.

The EU will continue to monitor developments and, if need be, raise the issue with South Africa in the context of the formal political and human rights dialogue fora that exist between the EU and South Africa as part of their strategic partnership.

¹ <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/president-cyril-ramaphosa-assents-expropriation-bill-23-jan-2025>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvg9w4n6gp5o>

³ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Julien Leonardelli (Pfe)

⁽¹⁾ https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Acts/2024/Act_13_of_2024_Expropriation_Act_2024.pdf