

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001247/25
to the Commission
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)
(25 March 2025)**

Subject: EU monitoring of the peace process and situation in Buenaventura (Colombia)

The European Union has been a long-standing supporter of the Colombian Peace Agreement, as well as initiatives under the ‘total peace’ plan, such as the social and legal dialogues between the two main armed groups in the city of Buenaventura, the largest import port, but also the country’s most violent city (according to a statement made during a municipal Security Council meeting, so far in 2025 there has been a 75% increase in homicides compared to the same period in 2024).

The port has not brought development to the wider area: Buenaventura has a multidimensional poverty index three times that of the department’s capital and twice the national average. Afro-descendant communities face daily risks of displacement due to the port expansion project and violence. In March 2024, EU funding of EUR 2.5 million was announced for these peace talks in Buenaventura, which appear to be deadlocked.

1. Is the European Commission politically monitoring its economic contribution?
2. What is the Commission doing to ensure the participation of civil society in Buenaventura in the dialogues?
3. What measures is the Commission taking, via the EU Delegation in Colombia, to help restart the process?

Submitted: 25.3.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(16 May 2025)**

The EUR 2.5 million project ‘Apoyo a la consolidación de la paz en Colombia’ was launched in March 2024 and supports three distinct peace processes (Buenaventura, Quibdó, Estado Mayor de los Bloques y Frente) through civil society projects and communication and advisory tasks, all implemented by the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).

The EU Delegation to Colombia holds regular exchanges on the situation in Buenaventura with Government, including the Adviser Commissioner for Peace and his local delegation. The EU Special Envoy for the Peace Process met them in March 2025. The Delegation travels there frequently to meet local authorities, the Catholic Church, civil society and business organisations, and local representatives of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States. The Ambassador’s most recent visit, on 8 April 2025, entailed delivering with the ICTJ kits for micro-entrepreneurs and cooperatives, mostly composed of women and youth, active in recycling, barber and beauty salons, rural community markets and traditional fishing. The project also supports local community communication initiatives.

Despite a spike in homicides in the first months of 2025, the Buenaventura process remains active. While the groups committed to re-activating the truce on 8 April 2025, the situation remains volatile. The Delegation has been supporting dialogue efforts throughout, including through a consultancy on de-escalating violence in the city.
