

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001350/25
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(2 April 2025)**

Subject: Violence in Buenaventura and the role of European companies

According to the Commission, the presence of European companies ensures development and creates jobs, all the while respecting human rights, including environmental rights. According to a report submitted by PBI and Oidhaco on Buenaventura (Department of Valle del Cauca), this does not really seem to be the case. Rather, the situation in Buenaventura seems to be defined by discrimination, violence and racism. It is one of the most violent cities in the country and the level of extortion by illegal armed groups is widespread, affecting all businesses. Multidimensional poverty indices are twice as high as the national average. That said, there are many undertakings operating there (ports, logistics, road construction).

1. What concrete actions is the Commission taking to ensure that companies operating there do not directly or indirectly, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, benefit from this context of systematic violence — or have done so in the past?
2. To what extent have the communities affected by the social and environmental impacts of these businesses been involved in the Commissions monitoring activities regarding the actions of European undertakings?
3. How can the European Commission, in the face of situations such as this, propose a directive that weakens the directives we have in terms of due diligence, corporate responsibility and taxonomy?

Submitted: 2.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(16 June 2025)**

The Commission takes the issues of corporate responsibility and accountability seriously and has established frameworks such as Directive 2014/95/EU ⁽¹⁾ to improve corporate disclosure of social and environmental information.

The directive 2022/2464 on Corporate Sustainability Reporting ⁽²⁾ broadens the scope, mandates EU Sustainability Reporting Standards and enhances consistency and comparability in non-financial reporting.

With the directive 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence (CSDDD) ⁽³⁾, the Commission sets clear expectations for large companies to identify and address adverse human rights and environmental impacts.

The Commission regularly engages with a broad range of stakeholders, and takes their concerns into account in its policymaking. The CSDDD requires companies to engage meaningfully with stakeholders, in particular with affected communities, as part of their due diligence.

The Commission is committed to simplifying, not weakening, directives related to due diligence, sustainability reporting, and taxonomy.

The proposal COM (2025) 81 final ⁽⁴⁾ aims to ensure that European companies contribute positively to sustainable development and respect for human rights and the environment globally, while remaining competitive by doing so in the most cost-efficient way.

The EU is following closely the situation in Buenaventura and regularly engages with authorities and civil society to promote respect of human rights and socioeconomic development.

The EU is currently implementing Human Rights and Civil Society projects for a total budget of 9,239,032 EUR, including activities specifically targeted to the city of Buenaventura.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2014/95/EU amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting.

⁽³⁾ Directive 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence.

⁽⁴⁾ Proposal for a directive amending 2006/43/EC, 2013/34/EU, 2022/2464 and 2024/1760 as regards as regards certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements.