

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000102/26
to the Commission
Pernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Leoluca Orlando (Verts/ALE), Anthony Smith (The Left)
(13 January 2026)**

Subject: Reduced international monitoring of the Peace Agreement in Colombia

In June 2025, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia announced a 50% reduction in its budget, leading to the closure of three regional offices and a reduction in monitoring capabilities in a climate where violence and human rights violations are rife — let us not forget that a human rights defender is murdered every two days.

The United Nations Security Council has decided that the mandate of its verification mission in the country will not include enforcement of transitional justice sanctions and the implementation of the Agreement's chapter on ethnic measures (only 13% of which had been implemented by November 2024).

Given the EU's economic and political commitment to human rights and the implementation of the Agreement:

1. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to shore up the EU's political and financial support for the Office of the High Commissioner?
2. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to shore up the EU's political and financial support for the verification mission?
3. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to shore up political and financial support for civil society organisations monitoring the agreements on the ground?

Submitted: 13.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(6 May 2026)**

The EU is fully committed to human rights and implementing Colombia's Peace Agreement. With this objective, the EU supports the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Verification Mission (UNVM).

While it welcomes the renewal of the UNVM mandate, the EU regrets the reduction in its scope and cuts to the OHCHR budget. The EU collaborates with both organisations through political support and field engagement and is the largest voluntary contributor to OHCHR globally. At this stage, the EU is not planning to take additional specific support measures.

The EU does not directly support civil society organisations monitoring the agreements on the ground. However, it supports the civil society as a way to reinforce the implementation of the Peace Agreement under different programmes like the Human Rights and Democracy programme, where the EU funds projects to protect human rights defenders, facilitate victims' access to justice, and promote gender equality.

The EU strengthens the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), through a EUR 2 million project ⁽¹⁾, supports financial inclusion and development in conflict-affected regions through Territorial Alliances for Peace project (EUR 16 million) ⁽²⁾, or fosters labour inclusion for peace signatories and youth at risk, with EUR 6 million ⁽³⁾ for green and digital employment projects.

⁽¹⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/colombia_en.

⁽²⁾ *idem*.

⁽³⁾ *idem*.