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Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU Delegation to Colombia is aware of the situation in the region, as it holds regular exchanges on the situation in Buenaventura with the Government, including the Adviser Commissioner for Peace and its local delegation. EU Delegation staff travel frequently to meet local authorities, the Catholic Church, civil society and business organisations, local representatives of the UN and the Organisation of American States.

It is worth reminding that the Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia, Ecuador and Peru contains a human rights clause, with compliance being closely monitored. Directive 2024/1760¹ on corporate sustainability due diligence will require large companies to address human rights and environmental impacts in their operations, subsidiaries and chains of activities.

The EU adopts a rights-based approach in all partnerships and takes active steps to reinforce human rights safeguards, while engaging with development finance institutions to uphold human rights, environmental, social and governance standards. In addition, the EU funds the Due Diligence Navigator² for partner countries and supports the Indigenous Navigator³, tracking the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 26 countries, including Colombia.

Protecting human rights and environment defenders is among the top human rights priorities of the EU in Colombia, supported by global programmes like Protect Defenders' mechanism and actions such as 'El derecho a defender derechos'. The project 'Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean' also builds capacity among indigenous leaders on business, human rights and just transition in several countries, including Colombia.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1760/oj/eng>.

² https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/eu-due-diligence-navigator-partner-countries_en.

³ <https://indigenournavigator.org/>.