

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001596/26
to the Commission
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Catarina Vieira (Verts/ALE)
(20 April 2026)**

Subject: Forced evictions and palm oil in Guatemala: implications regarding the EU's responsibilities

According to the Guatemalan Public Prosecutor's Office, the number of requests for forced evictions in Guatemala increased sixfold between 2022 and 2025, from 22 to 94 and finally to 154. The Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination have condemned the lack of safeguards for indigenous peoples' lands, the abuse of the justice system to facilitate evictions, the excessive use of force and the failure to comply with international standards during evictions, and have called for a moratorium. Palm oil — Guatemala's largest export to the EU — is produced in these context.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What measures is it taking to ensure that imported palm oil is not linked to human rights abuses in the regions from which it originates, and what measures is it taking to prevent evictions in this context?
2. How does it ensure that people and communities defending land and territory in these regions can carry out their work in conditions of safety?
3. What measures is it taking to ensure that the territorial rights of indigenous peoples are respected in relation to investments and the production of goods traded with the EU?

Submitted: 20.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(30 June 2026)**

To complement the annual institutional dialogue on trade and sustainable development under the EU-Central America Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾ including Guatemala, several tools and actions are in place to promote a transition towards sustainable value chains including human rights protection.

Upon entry into application of the EU Deforestation Regulation ⁽²⁾ (EUDR) in December 2026, operators placing on the EU market products produced with commodities originating from Guatemala ⁽³⁾ will have to carry out due diligence to ensure that they are deforestation free and produced in line with the relevant legislation of the Guatemala, including in terms of human rights protected under international law and the principle of free, prior and informed consent, including as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive ⁽⁴⁾ will require large companies to identify and address adverse human rights and environmental impacts in their own operations, those of their subsidiaries and in their (global) value chains. Non-compliance is subject to public and private enforcement.

On the respect of territorial rights of indigenous peoples, the Global Gateway strategy supports sustainable and quality investments with high social, environmental and governance standards in full compliance with human rights obligations ⁽⁵⁾.

The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe Regulation ⁽⁶⁾ ensures the systematic application of the Human Rights Based Approach in all EU funded external actions.

⁽¹⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:346:0003:2621:EN:PDF>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115>.

⁽³⁾ Starting from the entry into application of the EUDR at the end of 2026.

⁽⁴⁾ Enters into application mid-2029: Directive (EU) 2024/1760 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1760/oj/eng>) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on corporate sustainability due diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/1937/oj/eng>) and Regulation (EU) 2023/2859 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2859/oj/eng>), OJ L, 2024/1760, 5.7.2024.

⁽⁵⁾ Including respect for territorial rights.

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