

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003159/26
to the Commission
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)
(29 July 2026)**

Subject: Safeguards, transparency and accountability of EU economic interests in Colombia

According to Colombia's Ombudsman's Office ⁽¹⁾, 81 human rights defenders were killed in the first five months of 2025, while the UN reports ⁽²⁾ that nearly 100 are killed each year. More than 70% of Colombian territory is affected by the presence of non-state armed actors exercising varying degrees of social control, in some areas completely undermining the autonomy of local authorities and Indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant communities. According to Transparency for Colombia, among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Colombia ranks among the lowest in terms of corruption perception, surpassing only Mexico and Türkiye.

Many of these areas host European companies, receive European investments, or produce goods exported to the EU.

1. What transparency requirements and accessible mechanisms are available to enable civil society to monitor, oversee and obtain information about the implementation of these safeguards, particularly with regard to business and human rights?
2. What specific action do the Commission and the EU Delegation to Colombia take when they become aware of alleged human rights or environmental violations linked to European companies or economic interests, and what follow-up and remedial measures are available to ensure accountability?

Submitted: 29.7.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(19 October 2026)**

The protection of human rights defenders and other persons at risk remains a priority in the EU's engagement with Colombia and features prominently in the bilateral political dialogue, including the EU-Colombia Human Rights Dialogue.

The EU prioritises sustainable development, human rights, and responsible business conduct in its economic engagement with Colombia. Moreover, the EU promotes responsible business conduct through legislation, international standards, and cooperation in alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights ⁽¹⁾ and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises ⁽²⁾.

In Colombia, the EU strengthens supply-chain transparency and due diligence through regulations on conflict minerals, deforestation, forced labour, and sustainability. This includes supporting traceability for coffee, cocoa, and palm oil under the EU Deforestation Regulation ⁽³⁾, alongside initiatives like Team Europe AMAZONIA+ ⁽⁴⁾.

The EU combines political dialogue, sectoral cooperation and support to institutional strengthening with the application of European and international standards. If alleged violations occur, the primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting, as well as for protecting and providing remedy, lies with Colombian authorities.

¹ <https://www.defensoria.gov.co/-/ascienden-a-81-los-asesinatos-de-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-y-liderazgos-sociales-en-2025>.

² <https://news.un.org/es/story/2026/03/1541259>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/reference-publications/guiding-principles-business-and-human-rights>.

⁽²⁾ https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-guidelines-for-multinational-enterprises-on-responsible-business-conduct_81f92357-en.html.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.fiap.gob.es/en/proyectos_fiiapp/amazonia-programme/.