

Parliamentary questions

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21 November 2011

E-010713/2011

Question for written answer
to the Commission

Rule 117

Thijs Berman (S&D) and Emine Bozkurt (S&D)

▶ Subject: Child labour in Turkey

In Question P-009177/2010 on child labour in Turkey, the Commission was asked to specify what pressure it is bringing to bear on the Turkish Government to eradicate child labour, which is used with particular frequency for hazelnut cultivation. In its answer, the Commission stated that it would pursue the dialogue on the prevalence of child labour during the meetings with the Turkish Government under the EU-Turkey Association Agreement.

Has the Commission in fact pursued the dialogue on child labour with the Turkish Government?

If so, what has been the result of this dialogue?

Has the Turkish Government taken steps towards the eradication of child labour and, if so, what were these steps?

Is the Commission satisfied with progress made by the Turkish Government in the eradication of child labour?

If not, how does the Commission intend to assist the Turkish Government in achieving the desired results, and does it consider a more direct dialogue to be necessary?

Turkish hazelnut exports are largely intended for the European Union. What measures does the Commission intend to ensure compliance by European employers with ILO core conventions?

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1 February 2012

E-010713/2011

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission

The dialogue on child labour with the Turkish authorities has been pursued and has built on elements of the answer to previous Written Question [P-009177/2010](#)⁽¹⁾. As indicated in the 2011 Progress Report on Turkey⁽²⁾ (page 33), no measurable progress has been made yet in the fight against child labour.

The Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Security started a project (METIP) in 2010 aimed at improving work and social conditions of seasonal migrant agriculture workers. An action plan was announced in 2011 to keep children away from agricultural work in provinces with hazelnut production. Activities on awareness-raising, monitoring and service provision to children have been carried out. Implementation of the action plan will continue in 2012.

The Ministry of National Education also published a circular facilitating access to education for children of seasonal migrant workers.

Turkey has been running several pilot projects to tackle other aspects of child labour. The lack of up-to-date data on the number and situation of working children still persists. Turkey will therefore conduct a national child labour survey in 2012. The EU is supporting the efforts of the Turkish authorities to eradicate child labour, through its Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. A project is being prepared with the assistance of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), for the elimination of child labour in seasonal temporary migrant agricultural work.

The Commission will continue to raise the issue with the Turkish authorities and to monitor closely developments. It also encourages European companies to act in accordance with ILO labour standards including on child labour.

(1) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EN>

(2) http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/key-documents/reports_oct_2011_en.htm