

FORM FOR TABLING A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
To be put to: COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSION <input type="checkbox"/> Question for oral answer with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	To be put to: PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSION <input type="checkbox"/> VICE-PRESIDENT / HIGH REPRESENTATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Question for written answer (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority question (Rule 117(4)) <input type="checkbox"/>
AUTHOR(S): Peter VAN DALEN, Thijs BERMAN, Graham WATSON	
SUBJECT: Bonded (child) labour of Dalit girls in garment production of EU-based companies (please specify)	
TEXT: A variety of reports have in the last few years been published about the involvement of European and US garment brands and retailers in garment production in South India where at least 100.000 girls and young women – mostly of Dalit (outcaste) or low caste background - work under recruitment and employment schemes that amount to bonded labour. Recently the report ‘Maid in India’ by SOMO and the India Committee of the Netherlands provided evidence that 37 EU-based companies are sourcing from four large Tamil Nadu based garment manufacturers where these and related human rights violations are taking place. Following on an earlier report – ‘Captured by Cotton’ - published in May 2011 some improvements have been brought about under pressure of active buyers, NGOs etc., but according to ‘Maid in India’ major abuses continue to occur.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Commission willing to raise this CSR and human rights issue, in which so many European companies are involved, with the Indian government in order to work on a joint solution? 2. Is the Commission willing to raise this issue with the EU-based companies involved in order to come up with a joint plan of action, to monitor its implementation, and to report the results achieved to the Parliament every year? 3. Is the Commission, in view of its own criteria for effective self- en co-regulation processes on CSR in sectors (point 4.3. of the EU strategy 2011-2014 on CSR), willing to work with the garment industry as a pilot in the context of developing a code of good practice for self- and co-regulation exercises (point of action 5 of CSR strategy)? 4. Is the Commission, also in view of its endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, willing to demand full supply chain transparency from the European garment industry, as e.g. the Dutch Parliament has recently demanded in a motion? 5. Is the Commission willing to bring up this case in the context of the EU-India free-trade negotiations as input for the discussion about the sustainability chapter and how issues like this should be dealt with under the EU-India free trade agreement? 	
Signature(s):	Date: