

FORM FOR TABLING A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
To be put to: COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSION <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 oral answer with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Question for written answer (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority question (Rule 117(4)) <input type="checkbox"/>

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SUBJECT:
(please specify) Follow-up question: Bonded (child) labour of Dalit girls in garment production of EU-based companies

TEXT:

Following up on the answer of the HR/VP to question E-005948/2012, we request you to be more specific on the role of the European Union, including the EU Delegation in Delhi, in taking up the issue of bonded (child) labour. Various stakeholders, including EU-based companies, are actively taking up this issue both individually and collectively. The various activities and their impacts have been assessed in the document 'Bonded (child) labour in the South Indian Garment Industry - An Update of Debate and Action on the 'Sumangali Scheme' by SOMO and the India Committee of the Netherlands. The question remains what role the European Union can and should play as a crucial stakeholder in the efforts to eradicate bonded (child) labour in India's garment industry.

1. Is the HR/VP, in view of the very serious and wide-spread nature of this problem and the involvement of a number of EU-companies, willing to take a *special initiative* to work on a solution with the governments of India and Tamil Nadu as this could be a crucial form of support for companies and other stakeholders already working on this deep-rooted and structural issue?
2. How does and can the Commission, including the Delegation, support the campaign of the ILO and the European social partners of the textile and clothing sector towards the eradication of bonded (child) labour in the South Indian garment industry?
3. How is the Commission ensuring transparency with regard to the chapter on sustainable development in the EU-India Free trade Agreement and, regarding dialogue on these issues, how does the Commission ensure adequate civil society input in these dialogues?
4. Is the Commission willing to *practically* support the recently announced substantial amendments to the Child Labour Act in India by offering to work with the Government of India on a time-bound implementation plan of the new Act, especially with regard to eradicating child labour in the sectors that export their products to the European Union?

Signature(s):



Peter van Dalen

Date: 09/10/2012