

**Question for written answer E-010980/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: 2014 Global Slavery Index: Europe

The Australian foundation Walk Free has published its annual report on modern slavery in a total of 167 countries. This could cover human trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced labour, debt bondage, or forced or arranged marriage. The study reveals that Europe is the highest-performing region for government actions against modern slavery. This can be attributed to the various mechanisms put in place by the European Union and the Council of Europe. However, despite the low rate of modern slavery in comparison with other regions, there are still children, men and women who are subjected to slavery within the EU. The study estimates that 556 200 people (or one in every 1000 inhabitants) have been reduced to slavery in Europe (the EU, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey, Kosovo, Switzerland and Iceland).

1. Is the Commission already aware of these figures? What is its response?
2. How does the Commission intend to step up the fight against modern slavery within the EU as well as its neighbourhood policy?