

**Question for written answer E-001110/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Elena Valenciano (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Situation of North Korean slave workers in third countries

Many organisations have condemned the use made by the regime in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) of national workers who are sent abroad, virtually as slaves, as a tool to bring foreign currency into the country.

Between 65 000 and 150 000 North Koreans are currently working in nearly 40 countries around the world, and in China, Russia and Qatar in particular. In addition to their dreadful living conditions, lack of liberty and labour exploitation, these workers do not receive their pay. Their wages are controlled and seized by the North Korean authorities, which also use their families in the DPRK as blackmail to prevent any of them defecting.

1. Has the VP/HR taken any specific action in her bilateral and multilateral contacts to try to alleviate the specific situation of these North Korean workers?
2. Does this issue enter into the contacts the EU maintains with the third countries where these labourers work, and China, Russia and Qatar in particular?
3. Does the VP/HR know whether any countries in the EU have entered into agreements of this kind involving North Koreans working in their country under the regime's control?