

**Question for written answer E-005068/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Tin mining in Indonesia

A third of the world's tin comes from Bangka in Indonesia. The industry's giants get their supplies from the island, often indirectly through a long chain of intermediaries. Illegal mines are prospering as a result of this, with serious social and environmental consequences and with thousands of people being forced to work in subhuman conditions.

Half of global output is used to manufacture the semiconductors used in microprocessors. This means that the manufacture of a mobile phone, an Intel microprocessor and thousands of other electronic products begins on the island.

The problem is that it is impossible to distinguish between legal and illegal tin, which leaves the electronics giants free to boast about their commitment to sustainable development and socially and environmentally ethical practices. According to information that has come to light, companies such as Apple, Samsung, Nokia and Intel are implicated.

Is the Commission aware of this situation, and what is it going to do to increase the transparency of the big multinationals' supply chains and to make consumers aware of all these practices?