

**Question for written answer E-005249/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Human rights abuses in Tibet

The European Union considers human rights as universal and inalienable. The Charter of the Union sees the advancement of human rights as a central duty, and it will try to advance them both within and outside its borders. According to the principles of European foreign relations administration, human rights and their advancement must be apparent in all cooperation with foreign partners.

The European Union is conducting negotiations with China on a bilateral investment agreement. Trade between the European Union and China has grown considerably over the last few years, and currently the EU is China's largest trading partner. The investment agreement seeks to facilitate this trade further. Since EU is an indispensable trading partner for China, these negotiations provide an opportunity to promote human rights internationally and put pressure on China on its widely recognised human rights violations.

A worrying example of China's human rights violations is the situation in the Tibet Autonomous Region and the treatment of ethnic Tibetans both in the Tibet Autonomous Region and in China. The Tibetans face ongoing discrimination, and their freedom of religion, expression and assembly is limited constantly. They are being imprisoned on false charges and tortured in the prisons. China has done nothing to improve the situation. On the contrary, it has tightened its political control on Tibet.

How does the Commission intend to enforce the EU's principles regarding human rights in the negotiations with China? Is the Commission going to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the negotiations and pressure China to change its treatment of Tibet and Tibetans?