

**Question for written answer E-007988/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Human rights violations perpetrated by European companies

The University of Maastricht has assessed 1 800 cases of human rights violations perpetrated by companies, with UK and German businesses featuring in 198 and 87 cases respectively. The UK and Germany feature second and fifth, respectively, in the list of nations involved in these unsavoury cases.

The list of potential human rights violations linked to companies is a long one and includes such cases as water pollution following the extraction of copper for use in automobile manufacturing in Peru, the confiscation of land for coffee plantations in Uganda, the flooding of villages following the construction of a dam in Sudan and worker exploitation in the garment industry.

These violations, regardless of the EU Member State in which the company is based, are an unacceptable blight on the Union's credibility vis-à-vis its partners.

What initiatives does the Commission envisage taking to severely sanction any known human rights violation perpetrated by a European company?