Question for written answer E-008495/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Rights of migrant workers in Qatar

Amnesty International recently published a report on the reform of employment legislation in Qatar. This reform aimed to improve the quality of life and the rights of migrant workers, replacing the 'Kafala' system, under which the employee is at the mercy of his or her employer. Indeed, most of these workers do not have a residence permit or passport, and have no trade union rights.

In May 2014, Qatar promised to pass reforms to improve conditions for migrant workers. However, no change yet appears to have been made, according to Amnesty International.

Although the Qatari authorities have stated that these improvements will come into force by the end of the year, statistics show that more than 440 migrants from India and Nepal died in Qatar in 2014.

Furthermore, the sites involved in the 2022 World Cup simply highlight the problem. Indeed, the International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) profits from this system of human exploitation.

In the light of this Amnesty International report, and taking human rights into account, what steps does the Commission plan to take to support the basic rights of migrant workers in Qatar?

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