

**Question for written answer E-008898/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Exploitation of very young Palestinians in the settlements

A detailed Human Rights Watch report entitled 'Ripe for Abuse' documents the working conditions of very young Palestinians on settlement farms in the Jordan Valley.

According to investigations carried out by Human Rights Watch staff, children as young as 11 are employed on these farms, which are illegal under international law, under conditions which are illegal under International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions on child labour and infringe Palestinian and Israeli labour rights, especially laws prohibiting work under the age of 15 and heavy labour under the age of 18.

The work forced on these children, who handle heavy loads and pesticides without any protection, suffer cuts from the objects which they handle and work in greenhouses in temperatures as high as 40 or 50 degrees, is little short of slavery.

1. Is the High Representative aware of this abuse on these illegal farms?
2. What action does she intend to take to ensure that ILO conventions are applied and to put a stop to the exploitation of these children?
3. Does the High Representative intend to step up her approach by banning products imported from the settlements in light of this serious abuse?