

**Question for written answer E-009013/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Sale and use of 'instruments of torture' in the EU

Five years have gone by since the European Parliament urged the Commission (2011/C 236 E/17) to close the legal loopholes (in particular with regard to the limitations of Regulation (EC) No 1236/2005) surrounding the use of and trade in 'instruments of torture'.

In spite of recent efforts to amend that regulation, the proposals that have been made would not prevent certain irregularities from occurring, such as sales of such products to non-EU countries, training in techniques that could be used in torture, and the promotion of implements that are already banned.

Amnesty International's recent report entitled 'Grasping the nettle: Ending Europe's trade in execution and torture technology' highlights all these shortcomings, as well as providing examples and information on the sale of such implements by EU companies.

With that in mind, and taking account of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, EU law and guidelines on preventing the use and sale of 'instruments of torture':

1. Is the Commission planning to make the legislative amendments necessary to remedy the shortcomings that currently allow the use, promotion and sale of 'instruments of torture'?
2. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture has pointed out that these types of implements have been used by officials and public institutions in some Member States. Is the Commission aware of this?