

**Question for written answer E-012767/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Importation of fisheries products from suppliers using slave labour

A US law firm has recently denounced a large agri-food group, with operations in Europe, which buys fisheries products from a Thai supplier which itself acquires its produce from fishing vessels that use slave labour. These people, some of whom are children, are sold to the captains of fishing vessels and forced to work 20 hours per day for nothing or next to nothing, on pain of being beaten or even shot.

This has been corroborated by reports from the *Environmental Justice Foundation*, which monitors the working conditions of Burmese and Cambodian crews on board Thai vessels.

It would seem that vast quantities of the fish and seafood currently sold in Europe and the United States is being caught by slave workers.

What action has the Commission taken, or will it take, to put a stop to these intolerable practices?

Where such practices are reported to the Commission, will it restrict imports of fisheries products from countries which fail even to respect the most basic of human rights?

Will the requisite penalties be imposed on these callous importers and their associates?