

**Question for written answer E-003306/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Negotiations with third countries and social rights

In accordance with its prerogatives, the European Union takes responsibility for negotiating free trade agreements with third countries.

The conditions for the conclusion of these agreements often include an obligation for both parties to comply with and implement the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) relating to employment and working conditions.

It is worth noting, however, that many countries with which the EU proudly announces its agreements (USA, Republic of Korea, etc.) have not ratified some of these fundamental ILO conventions, and in some cases do not officially even have any intention of doing so.

Given that the EU sets itself up as a champion for the defence and promotion of human rights around the world, how can it justify continuing to negotiate with countries which have flagrantly failed to ratify these conventions?