

**Question for written answer E-003978/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Free trade agreements and social standards

The free trade agreements currently being negotiated aim to create 'globalised value chains', as the EU considers free trade to be an opportunity for employment in Europe. However, many partner countries are not signatories to the ILO conventions which set minimum labour standards and those standards cannot be systematically included in the agreements since compliance with them is still a matter of national sovereignty.

Some of the partner countries for these agreements do not comply with the ILO conventions on social standards.

Does the Commission not agree that the very high social standards that exist in some European countries are liable to be weakened by this new form of unfair competition?