

**Question for written answer E-004559/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Andi Cristea (S&D)**

Subject: Addressing the situation of child soldiers in armed conflicts and the external dimension under the EU's post-2016 anti-trafficking strategy

The Commission recently adopted its first report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (2016). I am aware that it will continue working on a coordinated and consistent response to trafficking in human beings, and, by the end of 2016, will publish the post-2016 anti-trafficking strategy.

1. Could the Commission, within the new post-2016 anti-trafficking strategy, develop a more targeted and stronger external dimension, prioritising the development of partnerships with local civil society in third countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as with governments and the private sector?
2. Is the Commission considering further financing projects, especially in cooperation with civil society, related to the matter in the countries of origin and transit?
3. What measures will the Commission take in cooperation with third-country governments in order to prevent and reduce the phenomenon of recruitment and the use of child soldiers in armed conflicts, support the development of child protection legislation, including criminalisation of the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, and mobilise resources to build resilience and strengthen protective environments for children?