

**Question for written answer E-005238/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Change Your Shoes project

The Commission cofinances the Change Your Shoes Project through EuropeAid, under the development education and awareness-raising budget item. The aim of the project, which is run by a group of 18 NGOs (15 European and three Asian), is to study working conditions in the footwear industry and raise public awareness of exploitative working conditions in the footwear supply chain. It demands decent wages, safe working conditions and transparency for consumers.

As we understand it, representatives of the footwear industry are putting pressure on some of the bodies that report to the Commission, following publication of a study on the European leather industry.

We have also been told that the NGOs involved in this project are having difficulty accessing the funding promised by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO).

What contact have the Commission or the bodies that report to it had with representatives of the footwear industry in relation to this project, and on what terms?

Why has DG DEVCO delayed payment for year two of the project, where applicable?