

**Question for written answer E-005533/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: International minerals trade

The European institutions have finally reached an agreement on the trade of so-called 'blood minerals' - tungsten, tin, tantalum and gold. This legislation will require companies to check that the mineral they are importing is not from a conflict zone and does not stem from illegal trafficking.

Unfortunately, and unexpectedly for many organisations, this legislation is only compulsory for companies importing minerals - refineries and foundries - and excludes companies importing finished products for whom the legislation is voluntary.

As a consequence, and given that the European Union is the second largest importer of mobile telephones and laptops in the world, it is estimated that only 10 to 15% of minerals used in the EU will be affected by this legislation.

What does the European Commission think of this situation? Does it feel it is necessary to introduce additional measures to strengthen the impact of this legislation and why did it not decide to make it a requirement for all companies in the same way as the Dodd-Frank Act?