

**Question for written answer E-005702/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Afzal Khan (S&D)**

Subject: Severe labour exploitation

Although the phenomenon of severe labour exploitation is widespread, it often remains invisible to the public. The biggest risk factors for becoming a victim of labour exploitation include lack of inspections, targeted monitoring, extreme poverty, racial background and the enforced isolation in which many exploited workers live.

Not only does severe labour exploitation break the law and harm the victims themselves, but allowing it to spread across entire swathes of the economy will also have a negative impact on labour standards for all workers.

- While legislation to protect workers from labour exploitation does exist at national and EU level, implementation often lags behind. What is the Commission doing to ensure that the law is implemented across the EU?
- Moreover, some Member States have recently gone in the opposite direction and cut resources for labour inspectorates. What is the Commission doing to ensure that a comprehensive and well-resourced system of inspection of working conditions is in place?
- What is the Commission doing to monitor the situation more effectively, sanction perpetrators and, above all, promote a climate of zero tolerance for exploitation?