

**Question for written answer E-000017/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: EU policy for the eradication of forced labour and child labour in the Central American coffee production sector

According to studies, five of the six Central American countries that have concluded association agreements with the EU, appear to be condoning the child labour and forced labour, particularly in the coffee production sector.

In addition:

- the Nestlé and Jacobs Douwe Egberts companies, which account for around 40 % of the world's coffee retail sector, are allegedly supplying European consumers with coffee from 'black-listed' plantations.
- On the other hand, the EU and its Member States have an obligation to uphold human and social rights and the rights of workers and contribute to sustainable global development, ensuring compliance with European standards, the protection of human rights and effective compliance with social and environmental standards.
- In view of this and of ILO Conventions 82,190,138 and 129, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Council Directive 94/33/EC on the protection of young people at work, Article 21 TEU and the EU-Central America Association Agreement,

can the Commission provide the following information:

- Which of the above directives, conventions or association agreements are being infringed in this way?
- What action will it take to ensure the elimination of forced and child labour?
- How does it intend to ensure compliance by European and international companies with to national and international legal obligations in terms of human rights, labour standards and environmental rules?