

**Question for oral answer O-000094/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 128

Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Esteban González Pons, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Barbara Matera, Angelika Niebler, Marijana Petir, Michaela Šojdrová, Dubravka Šuica, Livia Járóka, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Alessandra Mussolini, Daniel Caspary, Andrzej Grzyb, Jarosław Wałęsa, Anna Záborská

on behalf of the PPE Group

Iratxe García Pérez, Maria Arena, Viorica Dăncilă, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Anna Hedh, Maria Noichl, Pina Picierno, Biljana Borzan, Edouard Martin, Clare Moody, Marc Tarabella, Julie Ward, Josef Weidenholzer, Hugues Bayet, Monika Beňová, Sylvie Guillaume, Cécile Kashetu Kyenge, Miltiadis Kyrkos, Luigi Morgano, Soraya Post, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Catherine Stihler, Elena Valenciano, Elly Schlein

on behalf of the S&D Group

Arne Gericke

on behalf of the ECR Group

Angelika Mlinar, Catherine Bearder, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Nathalie Griesbeck, Hilde Vautmans, Ivo Vajgl, Frédérique Ries, Norica Nicolai

on behalf of the ALDE Group

Terry Reintke, Ernest Urtasun

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Malin Björk, João Pimenta Lopes, Ángela Vallina, Kostadinka Kuneva, Eleonora Forenza, Marina Albiol Guzmán, Kostas Chrysogonos, Javier Couso Permuy, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Paloma López Bermejo, Marisa Matias, Helmut Scholz, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Marie-Pierre Vieu, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Tania González Peñas, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Sofia Sakorafa, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Merja Kyllönen, Neoklis Sylikiotis

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Daniela Aiuto

on behalf of the EFDD Group

Subject: Fight against trafficking of women and girls for sexual and labour exploitation in the EU

In its 2016 Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (THB), the Commission found that 76 % of the registered victims were women and at least 15 % were children. Most of the registered victims were EU citizens, with 65 % of them from Romania, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Hungary and Poland. Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is still the most widespread form of THB (67 % of registered victims), followed by labour exploitation (21%).

Several Member States have reported that THB for the purpose of labour exploitation is on the rise (21 % of total registered victims). The report identifies agriculture as one of the high-risk sectors, as exemplified by the recently reported cases of Romanian women affected by trafficking in Italy. The top five non-EU countries for registered victims were Albania, China, Morocco, Nigeria and Vietnam. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF have reported a dramatic increase in the number of Nigerian women and girls who have fallen victim to trafficking, with 50 % of those unaccompanied children; while 80 % of the women were trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The EU, through Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, adopted measures on prevention, on protection and support for the victims, and on prosecution of the traffickers, as well as the establishment of national law enforcement units specialised in human trafficking and the creation of pan-European investigation teams to prosecute in cross-border trafficking cases. Member States must also comply with Directive 2012/29/EU on victims' rights and 2014/36/EU on seasonal workers. Moreover, Article 5 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights prohibits slavery and forced labour, while Article 31 stipulates that all workers have the right to 'fair and just' working conditions.

In relation to the reported severe labour and sexual exploitation in the different sectors concerned, what is the Commission's assessment of Member States' compliance with the aforementioned directives and their obligation of due diligence to protect workers and to carry out inspections aimed at identifying cases of labour exploitation, and to protect victims, to establish redress mechanisms and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice? What action is the Commission taking against Member States that are not complying with the directives?

What specific measures is the Commission taking to address the gender dimension of trafficking, sexual abuse and labour exploitation? Given the number of reported cases and specific sectors concerned, what resources have been specifically allocated to the gender dimension in order to tackle the problem effectively?

What investigative efforts have been made to target those countries in which sexual and labour exploitation are most rife?

Does the Commission collect, based on the Member States' duty to report data, specific disaggregated data on women victims of labour and sexual exploitation in the EU? When will the Commission present its post-2016 strategy?

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