

**Question for written answer P-000335/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The EU's comments and proposals on the UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights

In July 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Working Group on a legally binding instrument on business and human rights released the first draft of the instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises ('Zero Draft').

In October 2018, negotiations on the zero draft took place in Geneva. During the negotiations, the EU was not able to participate fully, as there was no common position on the content. The EU therefore refrained from intervening in the sessions and did not sign the conclusions of the negotiations.

At the end of these negotiations, a deadline was set for states and stakeholders to provide comments and proposals on the zero draft by the end of February 2019.

1. Will the EU send in its comments and proposals on the zero draft before the February deadline, and if so, what does the EU wish to contribute?
2. If the EU does not send in any comments on the zero draft before this deadline expires, what is the reason for not doing so, and what impact does the EU anticipate that this will have in terms of its role in the future negotiations on the binding treaty?
3. What is the current state of play with regard to the Council granting a mandate for negotiations to the Commission?