

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0090/07  
by Margrietus van den Berg (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Self-regulation to combat the sale of 'conflict diamonds'

A group of 71 countries has been formed to pursue the 'Kimberley Process'. These countries will only accept diamonds from regions of the world which are free of conflict. The Commission has stated that businesses in the diamond industry must themselves do more to check whether bloody conflicts are being paid for by means of their precious stones. This will be the Commission's starting point during its chairmanship of an international working party of countries opposed to the sale of conflict diamonds.

What percentage of the diamonds imported by the EU are estimated to be conflict diamonds, despite the Kimberley Process agreements?

Where is this system being evaded most - in imports from which region? Or which businesses are involved?

Why should self-regulation help here? Will the Commission or the industry adopt a 'naming and shaming' approach in order to genuinely halt the purchase of conflict diamonds?