

**Question for written answer E-007317/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Transnational companies and respect for human rights

The UN Human Rights Council held its 17th session from 30 May to 17 June 2011. In a Resolution on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/17/L.17/Rev. 1), adopted without a vote, the Council decided to establish a working group and instructed it to promote the effective and comprehensive dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

During the session Nicole Reckinger (EU) said that the EU was now focusing on the implementation of the Guiding Principles drawn up by rapporteur John Ruggie.

These principles provide, inter alia, that states should 'withdraw[...] access to public support and services for a business enterprise that is involved in gross human rights abuse and fails to cooperate in addressing the situation'.

What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that the support it provides to business enterprises and universities under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) complies with these guidelines?

More specifically, what is the situation with regard to the business enterprises receiving financial support under the European Security Research programme (ESRP)?