

**Question for written answer E-005777/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Thijs Berman (S&D)

Subject: Grant to the Cameroonian banana sector

Reuters reported on 11 May 2012 that the European Union was to grant EUR 48 million to the Cameroonian banana sector to increase its output. The Cameroonian Trade Ministry is reported as saying that the money will go to the major producing firms.

The major Cameroonian banana producers have repeatedly been accused of human rights violations, of exploiting their workers by forcing them to work long hours for low wages, of exposing them and the local population to pesticides and of taking the land of local owners to expand their plantations.

1. In view of this, did the Commission carry out any analysis of the Cameroonian banana sector before authorising the grant?
2. What measures has the Commission taken in order to ensure that EU money will not contribute to perpetuating these abuses?
3. What control mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that companies receiving EU money will respect the rights of workers and local communities, as well as the environment?