

**Question for written answer E-011668/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Søren Bo Søndergaard (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Action to combat illegal child labour and trafficking

In the light of the documentary entitled 'Lyssky chokolade' (Shady chocolate), first shown on 9 December 2012 on the Danish public service channel DR1¹, and then on 17 December on the German channel ARD, can the Commission state its position on the issue of illegal child labour in the chocolate industry?

The documentary showed how illegal child labour and trafficking form part of the production chain in the chocolate industry, and demonstrated that corporate social responsibility is confined solely to marketing and branding strategies.

In 2010 the EU acceded to the UN's International Cocoa Agreement, which seeks to create the conditions for a fairer and more sustainable global trade in cocoa.

The agreement was criticised, by the European Parliament among others, for not containing clear rules banning child labour in the cocoa industry. Accordingly, on 14 March 2012, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Commission to submit a legislative proposal on an effective traceability mechanism for goods produced by means of forced child labour (P7_TA(2012)0080).

The EU is the world's largest consumer and importer of cocoa (40% of the world's cocoa goes to the EU and is consumed there) and therefore has a great responsibility for combating illegal child labour in the cocoa sector.

Does the Commission propose to introduce more stringent traceability mechanisms whereby goods produced using child labour can be detected and banned, as well as stricter requirements for the chocolate industry concerning documentation and transparency in its cocoa supply chain?

¹ <http://www.dr.dk/tv/se/lyssky-chokolade/lyssky-chokolade>