

EN
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Answer given by Mr De Gucht
on behalf of the Commission
(19.3.2013)

1. The Commission is aware of the Finnwatch study, referred to by the Honourable Member.
2. The Commission promotes Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the internationally recognised principles and guidelines it refers to. In its CSR Communication¹, the Commission encourages large enterprises, and enterprises at particular risk of having adverse impacts, to carry out risk-based due diligence, including through their supply chains. Some voluntary sustainability standards schemes also entail the monitoring of every link of the supply chains.
3. The Commission has no specific information of a similar case.
4. The Commission promotes in all its policies the ratification and effective implementation of the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in particular the core labour standards, and cooperates with the ILO to this regard. The European Union has further included social rights in the EU Strategic Framework on Human rights and Democracy adopted in 2012, which is intended for use in EU external relations. The European Union and Thailand are about to launch negotiations on a free trade agreement in which the Commission will aim to include provisions on Trade and Sustainable Development including implementation of core labour standards.

¹ COM (2011) 682 final, 25.10.2011, A renewed EU strategy 2011-2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility