

**Question for written answer E-008945/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Pat the Cope Gallagher (ALDE)

Subject: Trade agreements and human rights

The 'Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Human Rights and Democracy at the Heart of EU External Action' (COM(2011)0886) outlines the central role that human rights must play in EU trade negotiations as well as the need for the EU's trade and human rights agenda to be 'coherent, transparent, predictable, feasible and effective'.

Moreover, a number of recent reports, including 'Sold to the Sea' from the Environmental Justice Foundation, have documented serious, widespread and persistent human rights abuses in Thailand's seafood industry, including human trafficking, violence and murder. The EU is a major importer of Thai seafood products.

- Can the Commission provide specific examples of how human rights considerations are being applied to the recently opened Free Trade Agreement talks with Thailand?
- Can the Commission provide specific examples of how persistent reports of severe human rights abuses in the seafood sector are being addressed in the Free Trade Agreement talks?
- Can the Commission give an update on the development of transparent assessment criteria regarding the human rights clauses in the EU's agreements with third countries?