

**Question for written answer E-001968/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Peter van Dalen (ECR) and Cornelis de Jong (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Questions about the report 'Tainted Carpets - Slavery and Child Labour in India's Hand-Made Carpet Sector'

1. Is the Commission aware of the report 'Tainted Carpets – Slavery and Child Labour in India's Hand-Made Carpet Sector' by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University<sup>1</sup>?
2. What view does the Commission take of the fact that child labour and other abuses in the Indian carpet industry have already been amply publicised in the past 20 years and more, that, since then, a number of voluntary initiatives have been undertaken but that the situation of carpet workers as described in the report is still extremely serious, with the bulk of the industry using forced labour and child labour under very unhealthy working conditions and for extremely low wages?
3. Will the Commission order research into ways in which carpet importers and vendors operating in Europe are involved in slavery and child labour in the Indian carpet industry, including the companies named in the report, IKEA and Wal-Mart? What measures will the Commission take to ensure that Indian carpets sold on the European market have been made without resorting to slavery and child labour?
4. Will the Commission urge the Indian Government to take effective action against slavery and child labour in the carpet industry and jointly act against these phenomena?
5. Can European businesses which are affiliated to such European carpet industry certification schemes as Goodweave, Rugmark and/or the Care & Fair initiative demonstrate with a reasonable level of certainty that their Indian carpets have not been made by slaves or children?
6. Will the Commission contact European sectoral organisations representing importers and/or vendors of Indian carpets and draw their attention to the need to take action against slavery and child labour in the production of Indian carpets which they buy or sell?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://fxb.harvard.edu/tainted-carpets-report/>