

**Question for written answer E-005681/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Labour outsourcing in Colombia

The sustainable development chapter of the Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia emphasises the importance of respecting the ILO Conventions.

The Colombian Government has pledged to fight against labour outsourcing, yet representatives of Colombian unions have recently reported that, rather than fighting this phenomenon, the highly criticised Associated Work Cooperatives (*Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado*), which decreased from 2 890 at the end of 2012 to 2 669 in late 2013, have been transformed into new forms of labour outsourcing, such as Simplified Stock Companies (*Sociedades por Acción Simplificadas*) and 'union contracts'.

The increase in union contracts is particularly worrying, as these are not only an instrument for illegal labour outsourcing but also distort the purposes of trade unionism. They produce segmentation within workforces, in which a small minority controls the majority of workers. In 2010 there were only 50 examples of this model in existence in Colombia but, according to the Ministry of Labour, by the first half of 2014, 984 union contracts were registered.

In light of the European Union's responsibilities under the sustainable development chapter of the EU-Colombia-Peru Trade Agreement, how will the EU redress these illegal outsourcing measures?