

**Question for written answer E-001425/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE), Maria Arena (S&D) and Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Child and exploitative labour in gold and cobalt mining

The recent reports 'Gold from children's hands – Use of child-mined gold by the electronics sector', by Stop Child Labour, and 'This is what we die for: Human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo power the global trade in cobalt', by Amnesty International, document the widespread child and exploitative labour in gold and cobalt mining.

1. Do you agree that, for example, electronic products sourced by the EU institutions and the Member States which contain gold, cobalt and other raw materials should be free from child labour, forced labour and exploitative labour conditions?
2. How do you plan to achieve this through your own public procurement and the implementation of the new Public Procurement Directive by the Member States?
3. What action is being taken, in terms of EU diplomacy and support programmes, to stop these abuses, and what will be done to make sure companies put in place due diligence processes for all gold, cobalt and other raw materials used in their products, in order to prevent child and exploitative labour in their supply chains?