

**Question for written answer E-006886/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Maria Arena (S&D)

Subject: EU position as regards the UN process for a binding treaty on business and human rights

The third session of the UN intergovernmental working group tasked with the preparation of a legally binding instrument on business and human rights took place from 23 to 27 October 2017 in Geneva.

In preparation for this meeting, the rapporteur of the working group published a text containing elements of a draft of the legally binding instrument.

Furthermore, several Parliament resolutions have called on the Commission to advocate a binding approach when it comes to respect for human rights by businesses, including in terms of demonstrating due diligence. Therefore, in its report on the impact of trade policies on global value chains, Parliament calls on the Commission and the Member States to participate constructively in these negotiations and, in particular, to provide for access to remedies. It also asks the Commission to consider the possibility of broadening the scope of this binding approach to include companies' duty of care.

What position did the EU advocate in Geneva as regards the Ecuadorian Presidency's draft? What proposals did it put forward?

Will the Commission follow Parliament's recommendations for a binding due diligence framework for European companies in sectors other than conflict minerals?