

Question for written answer E-003595/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Cindy Franssen (PPE)

Subject: Zero tolerance for child labour

In the present day, across the world, some 152 million children are engaged in child labour in households, mines, quarries or in the sex industry, and of these 73 million are in dangerous situations. These children have (almost) no access to education, are abused and exploited, and suffer both physically and mentally. This is in direct contravention of the universal rights of the child.

During the economic recession in 2008, more children across the world were forced into unhealthy employment situations. The current pandemic and its economic consequences give reason to fear that child labour will become even more prevalent. This is not only a concern across the world, but also within the European Union. At the time of its inaugural statement, the Commission declared that it would make the fight against and the elimination of child labour a priority.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to adopt in the short term to counter an increase in child labour in the European Union as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. How does the Commission intend to incorporate safeguards in supply chains in order to ensure that products placed on the market in Europe are not produced using child labour?
3. How will the Commission ensure that the voice of children themselves is taken into account in the framing of policy?