

**Question for written answer E-005252/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The EU's forced labour ban as part of due diligence law

Sources told POLITICO Europe journalists Sarah Anne Aarup and Barbara Moens that the EU's 'forced labour ban' will be bundled up in a law that requires companies to carry out due diligence on sustainability.¹

This means that the ban would not be a separate customs law as in the US, which has already barred goods like tomatoes and cotton from its borders that come from the Chinese region of Xinjiang, where Beijing has launched a crackdown against its Uyghur Muslim minority.

However, in September 2021, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen promised a ban on goods made with forced labour in her State of the Union speech, in a clear dig at China.²

In the light of this and of the ongoing deterioration of human rights in the Xinjiang region:

Can the Commission clarify its position on the inclusion of the forced labour ban in the upcoming due diligence rules?

¹ <https://pro.politico.eu/news/142823>

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_4701