Question for written answer E-001114/2022

to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Zero tolerance of child labour in EU trade

Since signing the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ratifying the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, all Member States, and the EU itself, have had a legal obligation to protect children in their supply chains.

It has been 73 years since the declaration was signed and 32 years since the convention was ratified, and 2021 was the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, yet child labour has increased and the EU is still the main financial beneficiary of misery and child labour in rural communities that produce coffee, cocoa and many other agricultural products.

This is due to exploitative business models, disregard for the rule of law, ineffective development aid and ‘certifications’ that deceive consumers.

There is a humanitarian crisis in many rural communities that supply the EU.

President von der Leyen has committed to zero tolerance of child labour in EU trade but her zero tolerance policy has not materialised and has not stopped corporations continuing to increase their profits by using child labour to reduce costs.

When will the Commission use all legal means available to eliminate child labour in EU trade?

Supporter 2


2 This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D’Amato (Verts/ALE)