

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0687/02
by Maria Sanders-ten Holte (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Report by Save the Children about sexual abuse of girls by aid workers in exchange for aid in refugee camps in West Africa

On 27 February, Reuters and The Guardian reported that in camps in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, refugee children are in many cases being sexually abused in exchange for aid. This has emerged from an extensive investigation by Save the Children. Nearly 70 people were identified as culprits in 1500 interviews.

Is the Commission aware of this report?

Does the Commission know whether the alleged offenders include anybody who is involved in aid from the European Union and/or who is paid from EU funds? If so, which organisations do they belong to and what measures will be taken?

How does the Commission propose to prevent such excesses in future?