

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2057/07
by Simon Coveney (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Trafficking in Côte d'Ivoire

Is the Commission aware that, despite the chocolate industry making a commitment to end the worst forms of child labour by 1 July 2005 (Protocol for the growing and processing of cocoa beans and their derivative products in a manner that complies with ILO Convention 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour 2001), more than 12 000 trafficked children are still being forced to pick cocoa beans in Cote d'Ivoire (ILO/IPEC Combating child labour in cocoa growing, Feb 2005)?

Although the Harkin/Engel Protocol now promises certification of half the cocoa growing areas of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire by 2008, this now only means the collection and reporting of data, rather than actual certification of farms as free from trafficked labour. Given the commitment of the EU to fair labour practices, what is the Commission doing at this present time to ensure that the supply chain for chocolate is truly free from trafficked labour, and to guarantee a more transparent supply chain in this industry?