

**Priority question for written answer P-000573/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The forced labour behind the screens of our electronic devices

Behind the everyday technological gadgets manufactured by popular electronic brands lie unfair working practices. Various studies refer to numerous human rights violations that are taking place throughout the electronics global supply chain, particularly in stages higher up, such as unpaid or excessive overtime, a lack of protections and discrimination against migrant workers.

The report entitled 'forced labour behind your screen' for the EU-funded Make ICT Fair project found evidence of human rights and labour violations in a factory in Malaysia that manufactures semiconductors and computer chips for electronic gadgets. Employees at the factory, mostly migrant workers, describe cases of forced labour, violent threats, the withholding of passports and salary reductions. The report states that the factory, which is owned by the Possehl group, provides parts for the main chip companies in Europe and the US that provide chips for major providers such as Sony and Google.

1. How will the upcoming legislative proposal on sustainable corporate governance address such human rights and labour violations that occur in global supply chains?
2. How will the proposal ensure that the due diligence obligation and proportionate responsibility for violations applies beyond tier 1, i.e. throughout the whole supply chain?