



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2010/0323(NLE)

8.9.2011

AMENDMENTS

1 - 23

Draft opinion

Nicole Kiil-Nielsen

(PE467.338v03-00)

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, amending the Agreement in order to extend the provisions of the Agreement to bilateral trade in textiles, taking account of the expiry of the bilateral textiles Agreement
(2010/0323(NLE))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Inese Vaidere

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas, ***despite*** the Uzbek ***authorities'*** ***assertions that*** the practice of employing children in cotton harvesting is now limited to teenagers only, this practice takes place on private farms and is not a state-condoned policy and moreover forced labour is illegal and repressed, ***the pressure to comply with the centrally planned production objectives set by the government is in contradiction to any enforcement of the legislation by local authorities in the field,***

Amendment

B. whereas, ***according to*** the Uzbek ***authorities***, the practice of employing children in cotton harvesting is now limited to teenagers only, this practice takes place on private farms and is not a state-condoned policy and moreover forced labour is illegal and repressed,

Or. en

Amendment 2
Elisabeth Jeggle

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas, ***despite*** the Uzbek authorities' ***assertions that*** the practice of employing children in cotton harvesting is now limited to teenagers only, this practice takes place on private farms and is not a state-condoned policy and moreover forced labour is illegal and repressed, ***the pressure to comply with*** the centrally planned production objectives set by the government ***is in contradiction to any enforcement of the legislation by local authorities in the field,***

Amendment

B. whereas, ***according to*** the Uzbek authorities, the practice of employing children in cotton harvesting is now limited to teenagers only, this practice takes place on private farms and is not a state-condoned policy and moreover forced labour is illegal and repressed; ***whereas*** the centrally planned production objectives set by the government ***have to completely fit in with these assertions in order to enable full*** enforcement of the legislation by local authorities ***guaranteeing that farmers do***

not need to rely on child labour,

Or. en

Amendment 3
Maria Eleni Koppa

Draft opinion
Recital B a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ba. whereas the Council has stated in its conclusions on child labour of 14 June 2010 that it is fully aware of the role and responsibilities of the Union in the struggle towards ending child labour,

Or. en

Amendment 4
Elisabeth Jeggle, Inese Vaidere

Draft opinion
Recital C

Draft opinion

Amendment

C. whereas independent international observers have gathered ***enough*** evidence ***to conclude that the practice*** of forced labour and in particular forced child labour ***is*** a systematic and organised practice involving pressures on teachers and families with the participation of the police and security forces,

C. whereas independent international observers have gathered evidence of forced labour and in particular forced child labour ***as*** a systematic and organised practice involving pressures on teachers and families with the participation of the police and security forces,

Or. en

Amendment 5
Maria Eleni Koppa

Draft opinion
Recital D a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Da. whereas water is an important resource in the 21st century and therefore its preservation should be a priority; whereas the production of cotton in Uzbekistan has caused a severe reduction of the volume of the Aral Sea between 1990 and 2008, due to poor environmental standards and inefficient irrigation infrastructure,

Or. en

Amendment 6
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (-i) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(-i) Keep in mind their self-criticism regarding the Union's relations with autocratic regimes that was inspired by the Arab spring and ensure that the Union's strategic interests in Uzbekistan regarding raw materials and the war in Afghanistan no longer result in the Union turning a blind eye to human rights violations;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Elisabeth Jeggle, Inese Vaidere

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (i)

Draft opinion

(i) Remind the Uzbek authorities that human rights principles are enshrined in the text of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and that Uzbekistan has signed and ratified most UN conventions relating to human rights, civil and political rights and rights of the child but that this formal set of legal acts *is far from being implemented in what remains in practice one of the most repressive dictatorships in the world*;

Amendment

(i) Remind the Uzbek authorities that human rights principles are enshrined in the text of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and that Uzbekistan has signed and ratified most UN conventions relating to human rights, civil and political rights and rights of the child but that this formal set of legal acts *still needs to be implemented more efficiently in a country that just started the long process of democratisation; welcome generally the positive efforts of Uzbekistan in promoting universal human rights and good governance*;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Maria Eleni Koppa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (i)

Draft opinion

(i) Remind the Uzbek authorities that human rights principles are *enshrined* in the text of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and that Uzbekistan has signed and ratified most UN conventions relating to human rights, civil and political rights and rights of the child *but that* this formal set of legal acts is far from being implemented in what remains in practice one of the most repressive dictatorships in the world,

Amendment

(i) Remind the Uzbek authorities that *despite the fact that* human rights principles are *included* in the text of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and that Uzbekistan has signed and ratified most UN conventions relating to human rights, civil and political rights and rights of the child, this formal set of legal acts is far from being implemented in what remains in practice one of the most repressive dictatorships in the world,

Or. en

Amendment 9
Maria Eleni Koppa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (ia) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(ia) Outline the importance of democratic and human rights principles in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and recall the Union's commitment to further and deepen bilateral relations with Uzbekistan, which include trade, democratic principles, human and fundamental rights and the rule of law;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Elisabeth Jeggle, Inese Vaidere

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (ib) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(ib) Outline the importance of the relations between the Union and Uzbekistan on the basis of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and reiterate the Union's commitment to further deepen bilateral relations, which include trade, as well as all areas related to democratic principles, the rule of law, and respect for human and fundamental rights;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (ic) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(ic) Point out that the Uzbek government acts in contradiction to the outcome of the European Union - Central Asia Ministerial Meeting in Tashkent on 7 April 2011, in which "the sides recalled that the development of a strong civil society constitutes an integral part of democracy development";

Or. en

Amendment 12
Maria Eleni Koppa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (id) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(id) Strongly condemn the use of forced child labour, and outline the importance of international observers in particular the ILO and UNICEF;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Elisabeth Jeggle, Inese Vaidere

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (ie) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(ie) Outline the importance of international observers in particular the ILO and UNICEF to continue to monitor the development of the situation of forced labour in Uzbekistan, as well as in other countries in the region;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Elisabeth Jeggle

Draft opinion
Article 1 point (ii)

Draft opinion

(ii) Support the request by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to assess the situation regarding the alleged widespread continuing practice of forced labour and in particular forced child labour in harvesting cotton *despite* the formal prohibition of this practice in Uzbek legislation and the international conventions ratified by Uzbekistan;

Amendment

(ii) Support the request by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to assess the situation regarding the alleged practice of forced labour and in particular forced child labour in harvesting cotton; ***insist in this regard on the Uzbek Government implementing comprehensively*** the formal prohibition of this practice in Uzbek legislation and the international conventions ratified by Uzbekistan; ***stress the need to establish reforms to modernise and motorise the agricultural sector, which would contribute significantly to the abolition of forced child labour;***

Or. en

Amendment 15
Maria Eleni Koppa

Draft opinion
Article 1 point (iia) (new)

Draft opinion

(iia) Urge the Uzbek President Islam Karimov to allow an ILO monitoring mission into the country to address the issue of child labour practices;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Inese Vaidere

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iib) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iib) Call on the Uzbek Government to adopt centrally planned production objectives that take into account the existing limitations of resources and that do not hinder full enforcement of the legislation on forced labour;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iic) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iic) Condemn the recent decision of the Uzbek government to annul the registration of the office of the NGO "Human Rights Watch", as well as the government's continued obstruction of the activities of other non-governmental organisations active in the fields of human rights, labour rights and environmental protection;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iid) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iid) Set a deadline for the end of the ongoing human rights violations which

represent a breach of Article 2 of the EU-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, or otherwise suspend the application of the Agreement in order to prevent this "partnership" from turning into complicity;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iie) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iie) Not tolerate any longer, in spite of the PCA being in force for fifteen years now, that Uzbekistan remains far from being a "consolidated democracy" and negotiate with Uzbekistan concrete steps and a timetable to establish democratic structures in the country;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iif) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iif) Actively contribute to the improvement of the social, economic and human rights situation of the population of Uzbekistan by promoting a bottom-up approach and by supporting civil society organisations and media in order to achieve a sustainable democratisation process;

Amendment 21
Maria Eleni Koppa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iig) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iig) Put pressure on the current regime in order to preserve natural resources and the environment;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Helmut Scholz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iih) (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iih) Avoid double standards with regard to awarding or withdrawing GSP status; launch a formal investigation into Uzbekistan's GSP status conformity;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Inese Vaidere, Elisabeth Jeggle

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 point (iii)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(iii) Consent to this Protocol should only be put to the vote by Parliament ***after*** international observers, ***and*** in particular

(iii) Consent to this Protocol should only be put to the vote by Parliament ***when the Uzbek Government has presented an***

the ILO and UNICEF *have confirmed that this practice has been fully abolished in practice at national, viloyat and local level in a sustained and verifiable way and that Uzbekistan provides all elements and facilities to ensure that the situation can be verified.*

action plan of concrete steps and a strong commitment to better implement legislation against forced labour and child labour that endangers their health, education and regular attendance of school; outlines in this regard the importance of close and unhindered monitoring by international observers, in particular the ILO and UNICEF, fully granted by Uzbek state authorities.

Or. en