

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Question Time (Rule 116) <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority Written Question (Rule 117 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>
AUTHOR(S): Peter VAN DALEN	
SUBJECT: Child labour in India (please specify)	
<p>TEXT:</p> <p>On 14 June 2010 the Foreign Affairs Council in Luxembourg expressed 'its deep concern about the fact that over 200 million children are still engaged in child labour'. The Council 'reaffirms its commitment to protect and promote the rights of the child'. It is also concluded that GSP+ can be an important instrument for the promotion of 'sustainable development and good governance including the effective implementation of the ILO conventions 138 and 182.'</p> <p>On 10 June 2010 a number of organizations, including the India Committee of the Netherlands, issued a report and a press release about child labour in India. In these reports it is stated that:</p> <p><i>"More than half a million children in India below 18 years are growing cottonseed and vegetable seeds under hazardous conditions, including very long working hours and exposure to pesticides. Around 230.000 of them are below 14 years of age."</i></p> <p>The reports also emphasise that around 75% of the work is done by women and that in most states Dalits (outcasts) and Adivasis (tribals) constitute the majority of workers.</p> <p>On behalf of the EU the the European Commission is currently negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with India on behalf of the EU.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Commission planning to raise the issue of child labour, adult exploitation and ill-treatment of Dalits and Adivasi in its political dialogue with India? 2. What will the Commission do to ensure that EU-based seed companies are not engaged in the use of child labour and adult exploitation in their supply chain? 3. Is the Commission willing to undertake research on the issue of child labour in agriculture – the sector where almost 70% of child labourers are working globally – and its linkages with EU-based companies, starting with the labour-intensive global seed sector? 4. How will the Commission make use of the FTA negotiations to make sure child labour in India will eventually be eradicated? 5. Does the Commission have a policy of addressing the situation of specific discriminated groups such as women (girls) and Dalits in its contacts with the Indian government? 	
Signature(s):	Date: 21-06-2010