FORM FOR TABLING A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

ORAL QUESTIONS		WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
To be put to: COUNCIL COMMISSION		To be put to: PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNC COUNCIL COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT / HIGH REPRESENTAT	
Question for oral answer with debate (Rule 115)		Question for written answer (Rule 117) Priority question (Rule 117(4))	
AUTHOR(S): CASHMAN Michael (S&D), DELLI, Karima (Greens), DONSKIS Leonidas (ALDE), MORAES Claude (S&D), VAN DALEN Peter (ECR),			
SUBJECT: Caste Discrimination in EU Development Policy			

TEXT:

A central value of EU development co-operation is the prevention of social exclusion and combating discrimination against all groups, and the EU has reinforced its obligations to promote and defend human rights as an essential element of its partnerships with third countries and to ensure anti-discrimination and equal distribution of EC development assistance.

The European Parliament resolution of 18 April 2012 on the 2010 Annual Report on Human Rights in the World and the European Union's policy on the matter, includes a recommendation for "EU legislation to ensure that attention is paid in EU human rights policy and cooperation instruments to eliminating caste discrimination, and action in caste-affected countries, including Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yemen."

Thus far the EU has in its human rights communications, including the Human Rights Package and the Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2010, ignored the plights of more than 260 million people, whose rights are grossly violated and access to development severely restricted due to caste-based discrimination.

- 1. Which methods and strategies have the Commission applied so far to ensure that bilateral EU development aid to caste-affected countries addresses discrimination based on caste and effectively reduces poverty among groups affected by this form of discrimination?
- 2. Can the Commission acknowledge caste discrimination as a cross cutting human rights and development concern and take steps in cooperation with the EEAS to develop strategies at all levels for its elimination; enhancing analyses and implementation through a rights-based approach?
- 3. What measures will the Commission take in the planning, implementation and evaluation of future development aid to caste-affected countries to ensure that it contributes to the elimination of caste-based discrimination and alleviate the negative consequences thereof?

Signature(s): Date: 17/07/2012

Michael Carl

Reter van Dalen

MEP

ECR/Netherlands