

**Question for written answer E-015721/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D) and Elena Valenciano (S&D)**

Subject: Cases of slavery in the fishing sector in Thailand

Written question E-004593/2015 of 24 March 2015 expressed concern over abusive social and working conditions in the fishing sector in Thailand.

The term 'abusive social and working conditions' was perhaps not the most apt to describe the gravity of the situation, as the question was in fact referring to cases of forced labour, people trafficking, slavery and death.

When controversy first arose over the Thai Government's pilot project to recruit prisoners to work in the fishing industry, the project was condemned by at least 45 international human rights organisations, and also by other parties such as the British newspaper 'The Guardian' and the US State Department in its annual report on people trafficking.

We have now heard of a new report, published by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and Humanity United, which once more draws attention to the scourge of slavery in connection with the fishing sector in Thailand.

Does the Commission know about this new report? Will it continue to ignore this situation or is it planning to take steps of some kind, particularly with reference to the EU's trade with Thailand? Does it believe the EU's trade interests should come before human rights?