

**Question for written answer E-001541/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)

Subject: Thailand's slave fishermen

The humanitarian situation in some of the states of Burma has led to citizens seeking refuge in Thailand. However, Thailand is not a signatory to the International Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Burmese migrants who make it to Thailand are therefore forced into the 'underground' economy. Large numbers are being forced onto Thai fishing boats, many of whom working unpaid for months. Fish caught by Thai vessels have ended up in the European Union.

Is the Commission aware of these slave fishermen? What representations have been made to the Thai authorities to bring this exploitation to an end?