

**Question for written answer E-005357/2014  
to the Council**

Rule 117

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

Subject: Trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime and a gross violation of human rights. It is very often linked with organised crime and is considered as one of the most profitable criminal activities worldwide. The Commission estimates that the number of people trafficked to or within the EU amounts to several hundred thousand a year. The Commission's approach to trafficking focuses on prevention, prosecution of criminals and protection of victims. This is reflected in the new directive on trafficking in human beings, which was adopted on 21 March 2011. It establishes robust provisions on victims' protection and supports the principle of non-punishment for petty crimes and unconditional assistance.

The Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Report is published by the United States of America on a yearly basis. All countries are grouped in different tiers, with tier one being those countries whose governments fully comply with minimum standards in the trafficking of human beings. However, there are Member States which have been placed in the second tier.

Does the Council have any plans to prepare its own TiP report? Does the Council see a role for itself in facilitating the exchange of best practice between the Member States on this issue?