

FORM FOR TABLING A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
To be put to: COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be put to: PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSION <input type="checkbox"/> VICE-PRESIDENT / HIGH REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>
Question for oral answer with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Question for written answer (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Question Time (Rule 116) <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority question (Rule 117(4)) <input type="checkbox"/>

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SUBJECT: Thailand: The case of Andy Hall
 (please specify)

TEXT:

The EU is presently negotiating partnership and cooperation as well as free trade agreements with Thailand.

As these negotiations have proceeded, serious violations of fundamental human and labour rights have been reported in Thailand's key export industries, such as shrimp, tuna and pineapple processing.

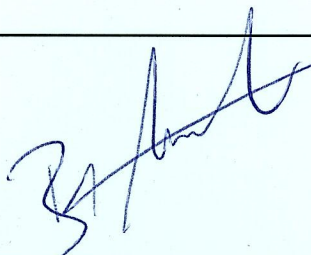
Thai officials' responses to such well-documented misdoings have been insufficient. In fact, Thai legislation and the policies of public officials in many ways restrict the legitimate activities and freedom of expression of the human rights defenders who have brought these violations to light.

To take one example, a recent report by Finnwatch, a Finnish non-profit research organisation, recounted well-documented worker testimonies according to which Natural Fruit, a Thai company with strong ties to the European market makes use of forced labour and practices that may be characterised as human trafficking. The migration and human rights expert who conducted the research, a British citizen named Andy Hall, has now been sued by Natural Fruit for defamation and may face several years' imprisonment.

In the context of the ongoing bilateral negotiations, what does the EU plan to do to improve the human rights situation in Thailand's export industries and to encourage Thailand to end the persecution of human rights defenders?

Signature(s):

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