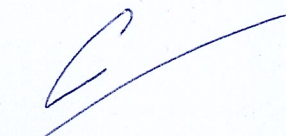


FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
COMMISSION☐
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ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 108) <input type="checkbox"/> Question Time (Rule 109) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 110) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority Written Question (Rule 110 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>
AUTHOR(S): Cornelis De Jong MEP	
SUBJECT: Rules, Standards and Regulations vis a vis commercial Crowdsourcing in (please specify) international trade agreements	
TEXT: <p>The European Commission is in the process of negotiating free trade agreements with a substantial number of countries on behalf of the European Council. Services have become an increasingly important component of those negotiations. Given the changes in the services sector which have been brought about by the technical progress in the digital area (ie information and computer technology), the Commission is also engaged in negotiations for a Plurilateral Agreement on Services. Those changes also impact on the labour market, labour relations and labour standards. One of these changes is 'Crowdsourcing', in other words the act of a company or institution taking a function once performed by employees and outsourcing it to an undefined (and generally large) network of people in the form of an open call through internet.</p> <p>Can the Commission please clarify and answer the following questions:</p> <p>1) Is the Commission aware that aspects of 'crowdsourcing', in particular those that involve the payment of wages to crowd sourced workers, have raised concerns amongst major stakeholders, i.e. trade unions in the European Union as 'crowdsourced workers' (particularly when they originate in developing countries) potentially undermine existing wages and conditions?</p> <p>2) Does the Commission agree that 'Crowdsourcing' should not contribute to the undermining of core labour standards and that companies using 'crowdsourced' workers should at least respect the agreed minimum wages of the respective country the 'crowdsourced' worker and/or the company is based in? Does the Commission agree that there is a need for common rules on 'Crowdsourcing'? Will the issue of 'Crowdsourcing' be addressed in the Plurilateral Agreement on Services? If it is not addressed in the Plurilateral Agreement on Services, will the Commission address this issue in any other forthcoming regulation or directive?</p> <p>3) The Commission is currently negotiating a free trade agreement with India. India has a strong services and ICT sector. Is the issue of 'Crowdsourcing' part of the negotiations on Mode I in this possible future agreement? Will the Commission address the need for companies in the EU and India alike to respect agreements on minimum wages and social and labour standards in the respective countries in the chapter on sustainable development?</p>	
Signature(s): 	Date: 9/7/2013