

Mrs Roberta METSOLA,

President of the European Parliament

Brussels, March 1st 2024

The Outlaw Ocean Project revealed that North Koreans, mostly women, are subjected to forced labor, violence, sexual assault, and captivity notably in seafood processing factories in China¹.

Despite UN sanctions, 17 seafood processing factories have been identified in the investigation. Since 2017, they have employed thousands of North Koreans.

Dalian Haiqing Food is one of the companies quoted in the investigation for employing North Koreans who are subjected to forced labor and dangerous working conditions. The Outlaw Ocean Project reveals that Pittman Seafoods has received at least two dozen seafood shipments, over 600 tons, from Dalian Haiqing Food since 2017. Yet, this company supplied the Belgian company Pittman Seafoods, from which the Compass Group, the company providing the European Parliament's catering services, obtained its supplies.

1. The European Parliament declared having "received all the clarifications requested" and "ensured the absence of any link with the company mentioned in its supply by the contracting party". Could the results of the investigation and the evidence be shared with us?
2. The Outlaw Ocean Project demonstrates that forced labor exists and is difficult to trace. The supply chain can be blurred. What chains of responsibility and control tools have you put in place to guarantee the reliability of suppliers?

We thank you in advance for paying attention to our concerns.

Respectfully,

Mounir SATOURI, Member of the European Parliament

Caroline ROOSE, Member of the European Parliament