



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

27.4.2015

B8-0363/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the second anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse and progress of the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact
(2015/2589(RSP))

Charles Tannock, Sajjad Karim
on behalf of the ECR Group

European Parliament resolution on the second anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse and progress of the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact (2015/2589(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Bangladesh,
 - having regard to the statements issued by the ILO following the Rana Plaza building collapse, and in particular to the conclusions of the ILO's high-level mission to Bangladesh,
 - having regard to the November 2013 Agreement regarding compensation for those affected,
 - having regard to the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh,
 - having regard to the Sustainability Compact of 8 July 2013,
 - having regard to the statement by Commissioner Andor on the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact follow-up meeting of 20 October 2014,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 24 April 2013 the eight-storey Rana Plaza building, located in Savar, near Dhaka, collapsed, leaving over 1 100 people dead and approximately 2 500 people injured;
- B. whereas the Rana Plaza building collapse was Bangladesh's worst-ever industrial disaster and the deadliest accidental structural failure in modern history;
- C. whereas there are more than 5 000 textile factories in Bangladesh, employing approximately 4 million people; whereas the European market is the largest export destination for Bangladeshi apparel and textile products;
- D. whereas, the ready-made garment industry has made a positive contribution to economic development and higher incomes, and had a positive impact on reduction of poverty and empowerment of women;
- E. whereas on 8 July 2013 the Commission, together with the Government of Bangladesh and the ILO, launched the Sustainability Compact, aimed at improving conditions for workers in Bangladeshi garment factories;
- F. whereas the Compact establishes a series of concrete commitments to be fulfilled by the Government of Bangladesh;
- G. whereas the Compact partners met in Brussels on 20 October 2014 to take stock of

progress made in the Compact's implementation;

- H. whereas the Commission is due to formally review the Compact before the end of 2015;
1. Remains deeply saddened and shocked by the events at Rana Plaza, the sheer size of the tragedy and the destruction it caused, and expresses its condolences once again to the bereaved families as well as those who suffered injury in the disaster;
 2. Calls on the Government of Bangladesh to continue to ensure that all those responsible for the disaster are prosecuted for their culpability;
 3. Finds it unacceptable that, two years after the event, some families are still waiting for the compensation they are due from the Donor's Trust Fund; asks that those who agreed to pay compensation do so with immediate effect;
 4. Considers the Sustainability Compact to be one essential element in improving not only health and safety in factories, but working conditions in the garment industry as a whole;
 5. Notes that since the tragic Rana Plaza disaster and the start of the Sustainability Compact there has been much progress in Bangladesh, and commends the speed with which the government has sought to implement its agreed commitments;
 6. Welcomes, in particular, the following:
 - the adoption of the amendment to the Labour Law which further strengthens fundamental rights in the areas of occupational health and safety and labour rights;
 - the continued work towards ensuring that workers' freedoms in export processing zones (EPZs) are improved;
 - the adoption of a national health and safety policy, as well as unified standards for health and safety inspections in all factories;
 - the increased number and frequency of factory inspections;
 - the closure of factories which have failed to meet safety standards;
 - the increase in recruitment and training of certified safety inspectors, in partnership with the ILO;
 - the creation of a public database of reporting on labour, fire and building safety inspections;
 7. Recognises, however, that further progress must be made in implementing fully the Compact and calls on all partners in the Compact, including the Government of Bangladesh, to work quickly and expeditiously in improving health and safety conditions in the industry in the shortest time possible, including the following:
 - completing assessments of the structural and fire safety of all active export-

orientated garment factories, as well as improving the public database of inspections, compliance with corrective actions plans and the closure of unsafe factories;

- further recruitment and training of factory inspectors who are trained to a single standard, and harmonised operating procedures;
 - further changing the Labour Law and its implementing legislation, as required, and increasing surveillance by the government to ensure that legal freedoms are implemented and respected, with the possibility of remedy in the event of violation;
 - ensuring that workers in EPZs enjoy the same fundamental legal freedoms and safety standards as workers throughout Bangladesh;
 - continuing, in partnership with donors and the ILO, to ensure adequate capacity building in order to ensure that all improvements are maintained in the long term;
8. Welcomes in parallel with the Compact the fact that the Government of Bangladesh significantly increased the minimum wage from 1 December 2013;
 9. Welcomes the further implementation of private-sector initiatives aimed at improving the situation in the ready-made garment industry;
 10. Reiterates its further support for the Accord on Fire and Building Safety, which has led to the inspection of over 1 110 factories and the finalisation of more than 400 corrective action plans (CAPs); calls on all the stakeholders involved to ensure that these CAPs are fully and correctly implemented;
 11. Requests the further and careful monitoring of the Sustainability Compact's implementation and for continued assistance to the Government of Bangladesh from partners and donors;
 12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Government, Parliament and Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh, the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Director-General of the ILO.