



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Plenary sitting*

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27.4.2015

B8-0376/2015

## 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 the state of play of the Sustainability Compact  
(2015/2589(RSP))

**Catherine Bearder, Filiz Hysmenova, Ivan Jakovčić, Marielle de Sarnez, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Frédérique Ries, Louis Michel, Jozo Radoš, Marietje Schaake, Ivo Vajgl, Gérard Deprez, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Petras Auštrevičius, Robert Rochefort, Hilde Vautmans, José Inácio Faria**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**B8-0376/2015**

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

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the EC-Bangladesh Cooperation Agreement of 2001,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on Bangladesh, in particular those of 14 January 2014<sup>1</sup>, 21 November 2013<sup>2</sup> and 14 March 2013<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to the updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of 2011,
  - having regard to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,
  - having regard to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work,
  - having regard to the United Nations Global Compact on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption,
  - having regard to the Compact for Continuous Improvements in Labour Rights and Factory Safety in the Ready-Made Garment and Knitwear Industry in Bangladesh,
  - having regard to the UN Johannesburg Declaration on sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development,
  - having regard to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which set a framework for both governments and companies to protect and respect human rights and which was endorsed by the Human Rights Council in June 2011,
  - having regard to the Sustainability Compact for continuous improvements in labour rights and factory safety in the Ready-Made Garment and Knitwear Industry in Bangladesh,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 24 April 2013 1134 people were killed and hundreds were injured when the Rana Plaza building in Savar, Bangladesh, collapsed;
- B. whereas at least 112 people died at the Tazreen factory fire, in the Ashulia district, Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 24 November 2012 and 289 people perished in a blaze in Karachi, Pakistan, in September 2012;
- C. whereas at least six people have died and more than 60 were injured after the roof of a

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2014)0045.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2013)0516.

<sup>3</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2013)0100.

partially built cement factory recently collapsed in Bangladesh;

- D. whereas the Bangladesh Ready-Made Garment industry has grown over the space of a few short decades to become the second largest in the world;
  - E. whereas as a Least-Developed Country, Bangladesh benefits from duty-free quota-free access to the EU market for all its products under the Everything but Arms (EBA) initiative, which covers 55 % of Bangladesh's exports, much of it clothing/textiles;
  - F. whereas over 5 000 dependants of the deceased and survivors of the Rana Plaza disaster have still received only 40 % of the compensation they are owed and while arrangements are in place to pay a further 30 % of their total claim, the final payment is prevented as a result of a USD 9 million shortfall in funding needed;
  - G. whereas the ILO is supporting the national initiative of the Government of Bangladesh to carry out structural, fire and electrical safety inspections of some 1 800 RMG factories, many of which are converted commercial or residential buildings;
  - H. whereas the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety and the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety have carried out inspections of the 1 687 factories which their member companies source from;
  - I. whereas decent work in global supply chains will be a key point on the agenda of the 2016 ILO Conference;
1. Regrets the existing USD 9 million shortfall in the total needed to pay compensation for the Rana Plaza disaster; calls on the international brands responsible, the Government of Bangladesh and representatives of the Bangladesh industry to take immediate steps to address this shortfall;
  2. Notes that compensation for the Tazreen fire is now being negotiated on the same basis of the Rana Plaza arrangement; strongly regrets the ongoing delays and calls for compensation to be delivered in a timely manner;
  3. Regrets that the survivors and relatives of victims of the fatal fire at the Ali Enterprises textile factory in Karachi (Pakistan), which killed 260 people, are still waiting for compensation from a leading European clothing retailer;
  4. Welcomes steps that are being taken toward establishing a permanent employment injury insurance scheme in Bangladesh and calls on the Commission to support such efforts where appropriate, yet notes that while current compensation efforts are outstanding this will remain a barrier to progress in this area;
  5. Calls on EU governments and others to start looking at improved regulatory frameworks that will ensure that access to remedy and compensation is based on need and not on the ability of campaign groups to name and shame;
  6. Welcomes the factory inspections that have now been completed in Bangladesh and the fact that repairs are underway at many sites; supports the important work of the ILO in

helping to secure this;

7. Welcomes the major commitments made by the Government of Bangladesh to rebuild the Department of Inspections of Factories and Establishments (DIFE) and the upgrading of its inspection service in January 2014;
8. Notes, however, allegations of endemic corruption in many South Asian nations between health and safety inspectors and clothing factory owners and calls for more to be done to combat such practices;
9. In keeping with the commitments in the Compact, calls for the Government of Bangladesh to adopt, without further delay and as a matter of the highest priority, the implementing rules and regulations of the Bangladesh Labour Act, in full consultation with the Tripartite Consultative Council (TCC) and taking into account ILO recommendations;
10. Welcomes the Commission's flagship initiative on responsible management of the supply chain in the garment sector; believes the EU has the ability and duty to be a global champion of supply chain responsibility;
11. Believes that access to information in the garment sector is often the most important obstacle to tackling human rights violations in the global supply chain and that a mandatory information system is needed that provides information linking all the actors within the value chain of a single product, from the production place to the retailers;
12. Considers that new EU legislation is necessary to create a legal obligation of corporate Human Rights Due Diligence for EU garment companies outsourcing production to third countries, including binding measures to secure traceability and transparency through legislation obliging companies which wish to operate on the European market to provide information about the entire supply chain of their products, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
13. Notes the important role that can be played by workers and unions, for example the continued development of worker-led safety committees in all factories and the importance of access to factories for unions to educate workers on how they can protect their rights and their safety, including their right to refuse unsafe work;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the European External Action Service, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Human Rights Council and the Government and Parliament of Bangladesh.