

**Question for written answer E-005959/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: European textiles industry

The textiles, timber and furniture manufacturing industries provide no fewer than 3.8 million jobs in Europe. A number of obstacles are preventing firms in these industries from breaking into third-country markets, however. Although bilateral agreements have been concluded with other developed countries and with emerging economies, trade is still being hampered by protectionist measures.

If we are to rebuild industry in Europe, we need a regulatory framework which makes our firms more competitive and removes as many obstacles to their success as possible.

1. The EU is currently holding negotiations on free trade agreements with the US and Vietnam. Can the Commission guarantee that these agreements will make for genuinely reciprocal market access and create a proper regulatory framework? Will the EU take a tough stance on third countries which flout international trade rules by employing practices such as dumping or counterfeiting?
2. The EU industry would like to see restrictive origin rules applied to textiles, with a view to ensuring, as far as possible, that the entire textiles production chain remains in Europe. What view does the Commission take of this proposal?
3. Can the Commission guarantee that EU standards will in fact be observed in all the Member States?