

Question for written answer E-010731/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Position of working women in Pakistan

According to a recent Reuters report, Pakistan is the only Asian country not to have experienced any development of its agricultural sector in recent years, with serious consequences for the position of women, who are the most active participants (ILO figures show that around 74% of working women, with an average age of 15, are employed in the agricultural sector). Taken on under precarious employment conditions and at a low wage, with no health or social security coverage, they earn an estimated daily wage of \$1.46. They are often victims of their illiteracy and sexual violence on the part of their employers is common.

The World Economic Forum has published a report on the Global Gender Gap, establishing that Pakistan is the second worst country in the world, after Yemen, in terms of gender equality.

Can the High Representative say:

1. Whether the EU intends to monitor the situation in Pakistan and intervene with specific measures aimed at reducing exploitation of the labour of women and children who suffer discriminatory, inhuman conditions?
2. What political action she thinks should be taken to put pressure on the Pakistani Government to ensure better control of the working and pay conditions of Pakistani women?