

**Question for written answer E-010984/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Negotiations in progress with Vietnam to conclude a free trade agreement

Europe currently represents a major market for Vietnamese textiles and clothes. Even without a free trade agreement, exports of these products from Vietnam to Europe continue to rise due to considerably lower production costs in Vietnam compared to a number of other Asian countries, on the one hand, and the Vietnamese government's plans to substantially increase fabric and clothing production over the coming years, on the other hand.

Moreover, prospects for the European textile and clothing industry in Vietnam are extremely limited, owing primarily to the country's poor purchasing power. European textile and clothing companies therefore fear that concluding a free trade agreement with Vietnam will lead to a decrease in production and to job losses in Europe.

1. How can we accept this information given that the highest priority that the Juncker Commission has set itself is to create growth and jobs and strengthen industry in Europe?
2. What specifically will the Commission do in order to mitigate as much as possible the negative consequences of a free trade agreement with Vietnam affecting the European clothing and textile industry?