

Question for written answer E-004142/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Subject: A new system of labelling for clothing and footwear

About 88% of world footwear production comes from Asia, where a worker making shoes receives only around 2% of their sale price. According to the most recent surveys of European consumers, they are interested in the conditions under which their shoes or clothing were manufactured, but at the same time they assume that when a product reaches the European market it is guaranteed to have met all EU requirements, including those relating to the working conditions under which it was produced – which in many cases is not correct. A number of initiatives have already been launched around the world, such as Labour behind the Label, which seek to raise consumers' awareness of violations of labour standards in the manufacture of clothing and footwear in Asia. One of the main recommendations highlighted by these initiatives is a unique European label to be fixed to clothing and footwear which complies with work safety standards and labour and wage conditions.

In this context, I would like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Does the Commission plan to introduce common labelling for clothes or shoes produced for European brands whereby consumers can be assured that the goods they buy were produced in compliance with minimum labour standards? If so, in what time frame?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose a review mechanism for clothing and footwear entering the EU market, so as to monitor compliance with working conditions along the supply chain?