

**Question for written answer E-007389/2016  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)**

**Subject:** Workers' rights and safety in Bangladesh following factory explosion

On 10 September 2016 at least 25 people were killed and 70 reported to have been injured in a huge fire in Bangladesh caused by a boiler explosion. This explosion was due to the unsafe storing of chemicals at a packaging factory, supplying international brands (British-American Tobacco and Nestlé), located in an industrial complex in Tongi, north of the capital, Dhaka. Bangladesh's economy is based on low-cost manufacturing, which employs more than 4 million workers, most of whom are female. A series of industrial disasters in recent years has given rise to real concern about safety standards ensuring the employment rights and safety of the lives of workers. In April 2013, 1 127 people died when the Rana Plaza complex collapsed near Dhaka. A subsequent safety check report highlighted that 40 % of Bangladesh factories have major safety issues.

What progress has the EU Delegation to Bangladesh reported in the implementation of workers' safety and employment rights in Bangladesh?

What measures is the EU putting in place to ensure that legal safety at work procedures are being implemented and enforced in factories across Bangladesh?

Will the EU consider reviewing the terms of the GSP+ arrangement to ensure that both female and male workers in factories in Bangladesh have a safer working environment?