

**Question for written answer E-009439/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Textile industry workers

One of the five objectives of Europe 2020, the EU strategy for intelligent, sustainable and integrating growth, is to reduce poverty, saving at least 20 million people from the risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2020.

Countries with the lowest statutory minimum wages (under 20% of what is considered to be a minimum decent wage) are: Georgia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and the Eastern Anatolia region of Turkey. Data released in 2013 revealed that the statutory minimum wages in Bulgaria, Macedonia and Romania are lower than those in China; and those in Moldova and Ukraine are lower than those in Indonesia. The wages paid to women working in the textile industry are well below the subsistence minimum, and even further below the decent minimum. Out of all these countries, the lowest net wages fail to reach 30% of what is considered to be a minimum decent wage.

What mechanisms are in place or are going to be put in place to rectify this dismal situation and to meet the Europe 2020 objectives?