

**Question for written answer E-001710/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Pina Picierno (S&D)

Subject: Protecting women around the world

There have been recent developments in women's rights around the world thanks to a range of initiatives, including those undertaken by DG Devco¹ and the European External Action Service. Many countries still have a long way to go however. Bangladesh, for example, has made impressive strides towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, including its reform of the textile sector, but needs to do more. The situation is even worse in Pakistan – a GSP+ recipient – where women and girls of all social and economic classes are subjected to discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is being flouted. While Saudi Arabia has lifted its ban on female drivers to appease the international community, women in the country are still being oppressed and discriminated against.

In the light of the above:

What is the EU doing to quantify and evaluate the status of women in such countries?

Will the EU use its position as an influential trading partner to insist on adherence to international conventions on human rights, labour rights and gender equality, especially CEDAW?

When a country fails to meet the criteria for trade relations or violates an international convention such as CEDAW, what action does the EU take to ensure that the country immediately implements corrective measures?

¹ The Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development.