

**Question for written answer E-002251/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D)

Subject: Bangladesh's progress in implementing the Sustainability Compact

Just over six years ago, on 23 April 2013, the collapse of the Rana Plaza textile factory in Bangladesh left 1134 people dead and another 2000 injured, most of them women.

That same year, the European Union, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the USA, Bangladesh and, later, Canada signed a 'sustainability compact' with the aim of steadily improving labour rights and safety in Bangladeshi textile factories.

However, the Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and ILO monitoring bodies continue to express serious concerns about Bangladesh's disregard for ILO conventions, in particular on workplace violence, discrimination, freedom of association and collective bargaining. The EU has called on Bangladesh to prioritise reforms to its Labour Act and Export Processing Zone Act. Meanwhile, the Government of Bangladesh has withdrawn its support for the Accord on Fire and Building Safety.

1. What progress has Bangladesh made in implementing the Sustainability Compact?
2. How can the EU step up its influence, financial support and assistance to help improve the situation in Bangladesh?