

**Question for written answer P-005392/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Termination of the Bangladesh Accord

The Bangladesh High Court has ordered that the Bangladesh Accord should cease its activities by the end of next month, and the Government of Bangladesh has agreed to comply with this ruling. The Bangladesh Accord inspects textile factories on behalf of 192 international clothing brands and trade unions. Many observers and stakeholders believe the progress made by the Accord and the safety of thousands of employees could be jeopardised by this decision. This summer, during the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact meeting, which includes representatives of the European Union, American and Canadian governments and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), participants called on the Government of Bangladesh to continue working with the inspectors engaged under the agreement, as well as continuing to develop its own inspection capacities.

1. Will the Commission take this matter up with the Government of Bangladesh to prevent the termination of the Accord and, if so, what will this entail?
2. Is the EU prepared to investigate and possibly suspend Everything But Arms (EBA) preferences to Bangladesh?