Question for written answer E-005315/2014 to the Commission Rule 117 Ivo Belet (PPE)

Subject: Benetton and the aftermath of the Rana Plaza disaster

After the collapse of the Rana Plaza Building in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Commission lent its full support to the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh (AFBSB), which has now been signed by the leading European textile manufacturers.

The firm Benetton, which had in the past, either directly or through subcontractors, ordered products from workshops in the building which collapsed, signed the accord only after a widely supported online petition. To this day, Benetton still has not published full information concerning which factories in Bangladesh it is buying products from, despite the fact that this is a requirement of the AFBSB.

Moreover, to this day Benetton has made no contribution to the Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund which is being managed by the ILO. So far, however, the Fund has succeeded in collecting only around USD 7 m of the target figure of 40 m.

What action can the Commission take to induce this European firm to comply with its obligations under the AFBSB?

Does the Commission believe that Benetton is making enough effort to provide financial compensation to victims of the Rana Plaza disaster and their surviving dependants, as called for by the European Parliament in its resolution of 23 May 2013?

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