

**Question for written answer E-005316/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Ivo Belet (PPE)

Subject: Textile industry in Cambodia

On 3 January 2014, during a strike by textile workers near Phnom Penh, four people were killed and more than 30 injured due to intervention by the Cambodian army. In addition, 23 activists were arrested, and the government issued a ban on public gatherings.

On 13 March 2014, the annual meeting of the EU-Cambodia Joint Committee was held.

1. What is the Commission doing to urge the Cambodian Government to immediately release the 21 demonstrators who are still detained?
2. Can the Commission – by analogy with the Sustainability Compact in Bangladesh – launch an initiative, in cooperation with the Cambodian Government and the ILO, to supplement and increase the efforts being made under the ILO's Better Factories programme to improve working conditions and health and safety standards in the textile industry?
3. Why does the Commission not further step up pressure on the Cambodian Government by expressly making the 'Everything But Arms' preferential trade regime for Cambodian exports conditional on a substantial improvement in working conditions and human rights in Cambodia, particularly with reference to key ILO standards?
4. What steps will the Commission take in relation to European businesses and their suppliers operating in Cambodia to ensure that they respect the ILO's key standards and the OECD guidelines for multinationals?