

Question for written answer E-000351/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Violation of labour rights in Pakistan

In Pakistan, where many EU businesses manufacture their products, the rights of textile industry workers are still being violated. For example, they are not paid minimum wage or even given basic pensions, are forced to work excessively long hours and do not get enough breaks, and their independent trade unions are being abolished.

The EU provides EUR 700 million in development aid to Pakistan every year and has forged a closer economic and political relationship with Pakistan through the EU-Pakistan Five-Year Engagement Plan and the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2020. Both set human rights objectives.

With a view to improving workers' quality of life and supporting the fundamental values for which the EU stands, and in the light of EU-Pakistan dialogue and collaboration, how will it put pressure on the Pakistani authorities to introduce legislation on, and take action to protect and improve, labour rights?