

**Question for written answer P-006374/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Frédéric Daerden (S&D)

Subject: Importance of carrying out social and environmental audits of suppliers

In 2012 a major Belgian supermarket group conducted a series of social audits of Asian suppliers of non-food products, focusing on wage levels and working hours.

Following the audits, the group stopped working with 34 of the 117 suppliers concerned.

In the light of the recent tragic events in Bangladesh, does the Commission not take the view that it should use all the means at its disposal to put pressure on European firms to follow this example, or even to extend such audits to as many sectors as possible, incorporating checks on compliance with basic hygiene and workplace safety standards?

Does the Commission not take the view that such audits should even be made compulsory or become part of EU commercial policy?

Does the Commission not take the view that publishing the names of European firms which comply strictly with codes of social and environmental good practice would be a way of encouraging firms to conduct such audits and of keeping consumers informed about the conditions under which the products they buy are manufactured?