

**Question for written answer P-006437/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Duty of care: parent companies and subcontractors

In April 2013 more than 1000 textile workers were killed when the Rana Plaza building collapsed in Bangladesh. The building was used by Bangladeshi subcontractors who worked for leading European brands. Some of the European companies, however, have denied that they were connected in any way to the subcontractors, which shows that they were not fully monitoring their production chain.

This tragedy shows that the globalisation of trade can only contribute to the development of participating countries when everyone involved shows more concern for human, social and environmental rights.

Two years after the accident, however, the EU has yet to respond. Although the Commission discussed the issue in its communication of 13 May 2014, it has not followed this up with legislation.

A French draft law will require leading French companies to put in place a duty of care plan (involving, in particular, compensation schemes and the possibility of imposing fines of up to 10 million euros) in an effort to prevent their sub-contractors from violating human and environmental rights.

Can the Commission say exactly how it plans to force EU companies to act on their duty of care so that workers' rights in developing countries are protected?