



**PRESIDENCY**



## NEGOTIATING AT 27

Regulation on a fair fashion label

Role profiles | EN



Council of the  
European Union

Proposal for a

# REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the establishment of a fair fashion label

(presented by the Commission)

## CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

When the Rana Plaza factory building in Bangladesh collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people, it was a wake-up call. It drew attention to an industry in which child labour, exploitation and abject working conditions are part of the business concept.

This is why the EU is working towards a fairer global fashion industry and seeking to prevent child and forced labour and poor working conditions. It is not acceptable for a T-shirt to be sold for EUR 3. It is alarming that people now buy 400 % more clothes than they did 20 years ago.

The EU and most Member States already have policies in place to encourage sustainable consumption, but so far consumers have been faced with a patchwork of different national, regional, public and private schemes.

The new EU label for fair fashion responds to consumers' increasing demand for sustainable products and aims at creating more clarity for consumers throughout the EU.

## Article 1

### MINIMUM SOCIAL STANDARDS

The fair fashion label sets **high social standards** which provide for living wages, prohibit child and forced labour and guarantee good, safe working conditions.

## Article 2

### BINDING NATURE OF THE CRITERIA

**Strict measures hold businesses liable** for proving compliance with the standards and for answering to the European courts if the standards are not met.



# PRESIDENCY

## Agenda

### On the Competitiveness Council's agenda today

is the Commission's proposal for a new regulation on the establishment of a fair fashion label. You will discuss the draft with the representatives of the other member states, aiming to reach a compromise.

## Your primary objective:

To agree on a common position of the Council by double majority (which is at least 55 % of the member states, representing 65 % of the EU population). Ideally, unanimity is always sought, but if this is not attainable the double majority rule will be applied. In practice, most of the decisions are not put to a vote, but the presidency tries to find a compromise that can be supported by all delegations.

## Your role

You join the delegation of the member state currently holding the presidency. The game facilitator will tell you which country this is.

As part of the delegation, it is your task to chair the official negotiations while your colleagues present the country's interests and positions. You are responsible for overseeing all official talks, giving delegates the floor and keeping to the schedule.

## Opening

1. You should formally open the meeting, welcome all delegates and the Commission and explain to them the purpose of this meeting (maximum 1 minute). The following script might help you:
2. After this, you **ask the Commission representative to present the draft**.
3. This is **followed by the opening statements of the member states** (maximum 1 minute each), called by you in the order of requests to speak. Invite member states with similar positions to make this clear, e.g. 'Our position is xyz, which is similar to the position of member state X.' Of course, they can set out additional arguments. You can also invite member states to present a joint opening statement as a group of like-minded countries in order to save time for the discussions.



*Members of the Council, Commissioner,*

*I am pleased to open today's meeting of the Competitiveness Council.*

*As you know, \_\_\_\_\_ currently holds the Council Presidency and will chair the negotiations. It will be my role to moderate today's meeting and will not be presenting our country's positions on the topic.*

*On today's agenda is a new regulation on a fair fashion label. The topic is of great importance for all European citizens, as well as for the EU's role in the world, because*

*Before giving the floor to the Commission, I would like to underline that the Council Legal Service has reviewed the proposal and informed us that it is in conformity with the Treaties and has the necessary legal basis.*

*We now kindly ask the Commission to present its proposal. Afterwards, each of you will have the opportunity to present your country's positions in a short opening statement.*

*We are looking forward to a constructive and fruitful debate.*

*Commissioner, the floor is yours!*

## Discussions

1. Moderate the ensuing official negotiations. Ministers can speak only when given the floor by you. Call the delegates in the order in which requests to speak have been made.
2. Ask the delegates not to repeat arguments and positions that have already been explained. Invite member states with similar positions to speak on behalf of each other. Time is limited!
3. Official negotiations are interrupted for informal talks. You announce the beginning of informal talks and the time when the formal meeting will reconvene. Informal talks can take place without your supervision.

## Reach an agreement

1. During the informal talks, you have time to prepare a compromise proposal. Of course, you can also ask member states if they have suggestions for a compromise.
2. You put the most promising proposal(s) for Article 1 and Article 2 to a vote. The Council's common position is adopted by a double majority (55 % of member states, representing at least 65 % of the EU population). Use the voting calculator to count the votes. The game facilitator will help you with this.
3. When it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, remind the member states that at this stage they have to decide whether they prefer a compromise with which they may not be 100 % satisfied or no result.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Source: Eurostat 2019, Eurobarometer 2018



1. Average amount spent on clothing by EU citizens every year (in euro)

0 - 250 250 - 500 500 - 750 >750

2. Percentage of people surveyed who responded 'yes' to the question "Do you make ethical choices when you shop for groceries, clothing, etc.?"

Yes, in %

# ARTICLE 1

## Minimum social standards

### OPTIONS

#### ■ High social standards

...which provide for living wages, prohibit child and forced labour and guarantee good, safe working conditions.

#### ■ Medium social standards

... which prohibit child and forced labour and guarantee minimum requirements for wages and working conditions.

#### ■ Basic social standards

... which eliminate the worst forms of child labour and prohibit forced labour.

#### ■ Other option:

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# ARTICLE 2

## Binding nature of the standards

### OPTIONS

#### ■ Strict measures

Making businesses liable for proving compliance with the standards and for answering to the European courts if the standards are not met.

#### ■ Moderate measures

On-the-spot checks whereby independent bodies monitor whether the standards are being met.

#### ■ Light measures

General commitments ('code of conduct') whereby the retailers themselves take measures to comply with the standards.

#### ■ Other option:

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	Article 1				Article 2			
	High social standards	Medium social standards	Basic social standards	Other suggestions/notes	Strict measures	Moderate measures	Light measures	Other suggestions/notes
Belgium			■				■	
Bulgaria			■				■	
Czechia			■				■	
Denmark			■				■	
Germany		■				■		
Estonia			■				■	
Ireland			■				■	
Greece		■				■		
Spain		■				■		
France		■			■			
Croatia			■				■	
Italy		■			■			
Cyprus		■			■			
Latvia			■				■	
Lithuania			■				■	
Luxembourg		■				■		
Hungary			■				■	
Malta		■				■		
Netherlands	■				■			
Austria		■				■		
Poland			■				■	
Portugal		■				■		
Romania			■				■	
Slovenia			■				■	
Slovakia			■				■	
Finland	■				■			
Sweden	■				■			
Commission	■				■			



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