



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



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.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council's agenda today is your proposal for a new regulation on the establishment of a fair fashion label.

When the presidency (chairing the meeting) gives you the floor, you present your proposal to the representatives of the member states and take part in the negotiations.

The two articles presented should be discussed by the ministers to reach an agreement. The other articles of the proposal have already been agreed on at preparatory level ⁽¹⁾ (working parties and COREPER).

Your primary objective

To make sure that as much of the initial text as possible is included in the final version, while helping the Council to find a common position. A common European solution is urgently needed!

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) to present and explain your proposal. The following script might help you:

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/>

Honourable members of the Council,

*It is good to have this important debate today on a new fair fashion label.
The label would be of great benefit to citizens and to the EU as a whole because*

_____.

In the Commission's draft regulation we propose high social standards because

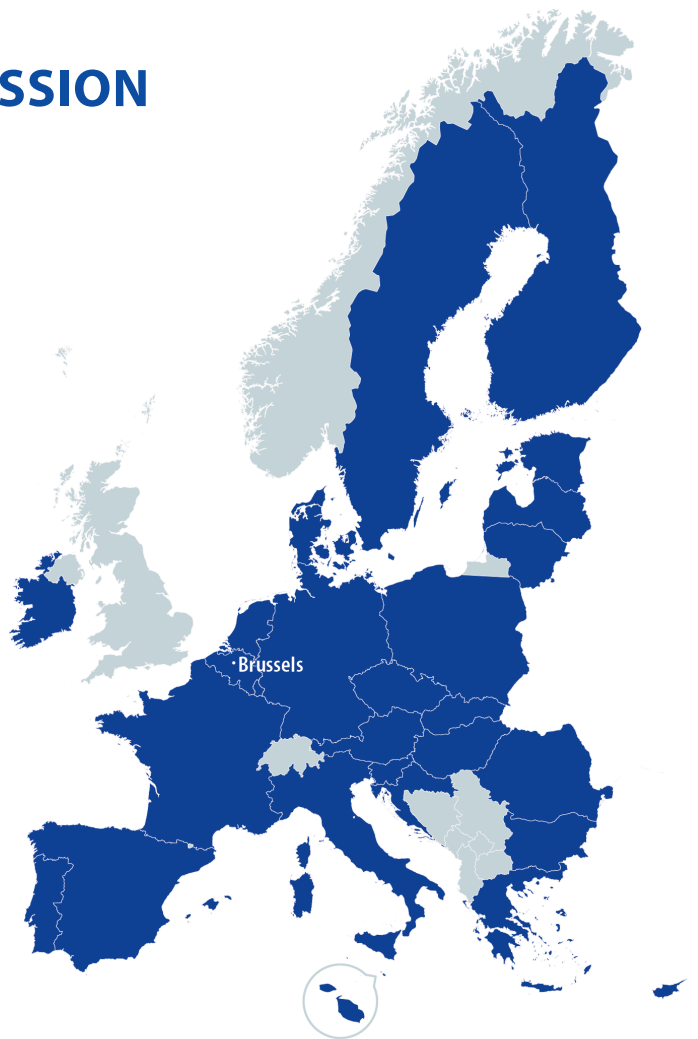
_____.

Those standards should be enforced by making businesses liable, for several reasons: _____.

_____.

*Together as a community, let's contribute to a fairer world economy.
The new fair fashion label would be a sensible first step.*

Thank you.



3. Listen carefully to the member states' positions. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions.
4. During the negotiations explain your positions and **defend your draft**. Take the floor and help the Council find a compromise that meets your expectations!
5. You have **no right to vote at the end**. Use the informal breaks to persuade delegates to follow your suggestions.

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

■ 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:



Your choice : high social standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- More and more Europeans want to buy fair clothing. They want clear and high standards. The EU should respond to citizens' wishes.
- The EU promotes human rights worldwide, and you want to strengthen this image with this regulation.
- Your proposal to the member states includes very high social standards. This gives you the opportunity to move away from this maximum position step by step.
- Medium social standards would be your minimum goal for the new regulation.
- Your notes:

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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

Your choice : strict measures

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Whatever standards are set, they must be enforced. Only then will the EU be able to act, and the regulations will no longer exist merely on paper.
- At the same time, the administrative burden and costs should be kept within reasonable limits. The more complicated the procedure, the more expensive the fair clothing will be in the end.
- The label will only be used only if consumers trust it. Making businesses liable would ensure a reliable and practical label. Less rigorous controls would entail the risk of breaches of the standards going undetected.
- Your notes:

	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	■				■			



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



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.

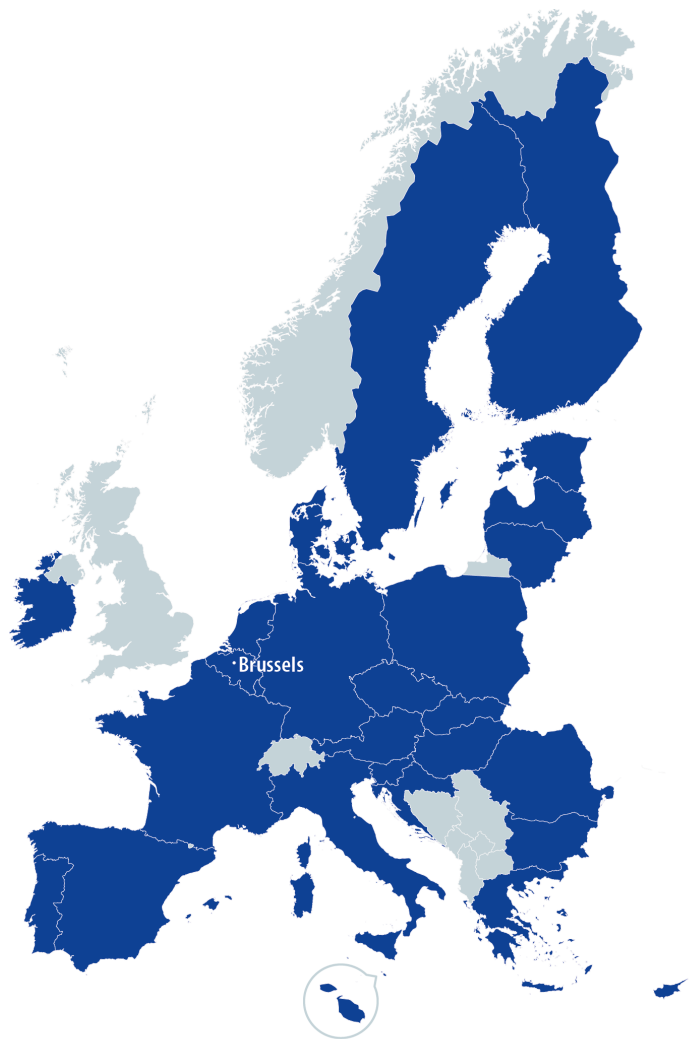
Your role

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:



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:



	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	■				■			



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



ROMANIA



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.



ROMANIA

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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Bulgaria and Croatia (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Madam/Mr President, Commissioner, colleagues,

I would first of all like to thank the Commission for its proposal and the Presidency for including this issue on today's agenda.

In advance of today's meeting we had fruitful deliberations with _____, and we agreed on a common position.

We think it is necessary to revise the standards set out in Article 1 of the regulation. We argue for basic social standards, because _____.

With regard to Article 2, we are in favour of introducing light measures: a 'code of conduct' to which all retailers should commit.

We are confident that we will find a workable compromise during today's meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Bulgaria and Croatia. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- The textile industry is important for your country, as many people work in textile factories. These are closely associated with suppliers and businesses all over the world. That is why it is important for you not to burden the textile industry too much. A label costs money, and the higher the standards, the more money it costs. You advocate basic standards to protect companies.
- Most people in your country do not have the money to buy fair fashion and they do not care. That is why this topic is not a priority for you. There are already many private labels, so everyone can buy fair fashion if they wish. You find that quite sufficient and see no need for an EU-wide legal label.
- Your red lines: the regulation must noticeably improve the lives of workers. Children must be protected from exploitation.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- European politicians should trust businesses. The existing fair labels already show that very good results are achieved when companies and civil society voluntarily join forces. If the EU hires independent companies to monitor textile companies around the world, it will be a bureaucratic nightmare. Clothes will become more expensive and expensive products do not sell. As a consequence, sales will fall and jobs will be lost.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



BULGARIA



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.



BULGARIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

Take a common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Romania and Croatia (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Madam/Mr President, Commissioner, colleagues,

I would first of all like to thank the Commission for its proposal and the presidency for including this issue on today's agenda.

In advance of today's meeting, we had fruitful deliberations with _____, and we agreed on a common position.

We think it is necessary to revise the standards set out in Article 1 of the regulation. We argue for basic social standards, because _____.

With regard to Article 2, we are in favour of light measures: introducing a 'code of conduct' to which all retailers should commit.

We are confident that we will find a workable compromise during today's meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Romania and Croatia. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ The textile industry is important for your country, as many people work in textile factories. These are closely associated with suppliers and businesses all over the world. That is why it is important for you not to burden the textile industry too much. A label costs money, and the higher the standards, the more money it costs. You advocate basic standards in order to protect companies. Most people in your country do not have the money to buy fair fashion and they do not care. That is why this topic is not a priority for you. There are already many private labels, so everyone can buy fair fashion if they wish. You find that quite sufficient and see no need for an EU-wide legal label.

■ Your red lines: the regulation must noticeably improve the lives of workers. Children must be protected from exploitation.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- European politicians should trust businesses. The existing fair labels already show that very good results are achieved when companies and civil society voluntarily join forces. If the EU hires independent companies to monitor textile companies around the world, it will be a bureaucratic nightmare. Clothes will become more expensive and expensive products do not sell. As a consequence, sales will fall and jobs will be lost.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



CROATIA



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.



CROATIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Bulgaria and Romania (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Madam/Mr President, Commissioner, colleagues,

I would first of all like to thank the Commission for its proposal and the presidency for including this issue on today's agenda.

In advance of today's meeting, we had fruitful deliberations with _____, and we agreed on a common position.

We think it is necessary to revise the standards set out in Article 1 of the regulation. We argue for basic social standards, because _____.

With regard to Article 2, we are in favour of introducing light measures: a 'code of conduct' to which all retailers should commit.

We are confident that we will find a workable compromise during today's meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Article 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Bulgaria and Romania. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- The textile industry is important for your country, as many people work in textile factories. These are closely associated with suppliers and businesses all over the world. That is why it is important for you not to burden the textile industry too much. A label costs money, and the higher the standards, the more money it costs. You advocate basic standards in order to protect companies.
- Most people in your country do not have the money to buy fair fashion and they do not care. That is why this topic is not a priority for you. There are already many private labels, so everyone can buy fair fashion if they wish. You find that quite sufficient and see no need for an EU-wide legal label.
- Your red lines: the regulation must noticeably improve the lives of workers. Children must be protected from exploitation.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- European politicians should trust businesses. The existing fair labels already show that very good results are achieved when companies and civil society voluntarily join forces. If the EU hires independent companies to monitor textile companies around the world, it will be a bureaucratic nightmare. Clothes will become more expensive, and expensive products do not sell. As a consequence, sales will fall and jobs will be lost.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



NETHERLANDS



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.



NETHERLANDS

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

a common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Sweden and Finland (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Commission for preparing this draft and to the Presidency for prioritising this important issue.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from _____

for the very constructive negotiations in the run-up to this meeting and for the development of a joint position.

We fully support the Commission's good work in this regard. Indeed, we welcome this ambitious proposal in every respect because _____

We are looking forward to the debate and hope that a regulation on a comprehensive and sustainable fair fashion label can be adopted.

Thank you for your attention.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Sweden and Finland. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

YOUR POSITION

■ High social standards

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

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ The EU promotes the worldwide protection of human rights, which includes the rights of workers in Bangladesh or Cambodia. They deserve more than slightly improved working conditions - they need good ones.

■ More and more Europeans want to contribute by buying fair clothes. But how can they be sure that their money will reach the people who make the clothes? This requires clear legal labelling according to high, reliable standards.

■ The EU organic food label serves as a model: it provides purchasing guidance to anyone in the EU who wants it.

■ Your red lines: the regulation must noticeably improve the lives of workers. Children must be protected from exploitation.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Standards alone are not sufficient; they must be implemented and monitored. It is not enough to rely on the word of the companies. The supply chains are long and local factories are run by suppliers.
- Human rights violations are a crime. Whoever sells fair fashion is responsible for compliance with the standards – even before the courts. If faced with the possibility of high fines and imprisonment, companies will also carefully monitor their suppliers. After all, the aim is to prevent further accidents, such as fires in factories or collapsing buildings. The EU must ensure that it helps to uphold human rights worldwide.
- Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



FINLAND



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



FINLAND

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Sweden and the Netherlands (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Commission for preparing this draft and to the Presidency for prioritising this important issue.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from _____

for the very constructive negotiations in the run-up to this meeting and for the development of a joint position.

We fully support the Commission's good work in this regard. Indeed, we welcome this ambitious proposal in every respect because _____.

We are looking forward to the debate and hope that a regulation on a comprehensive and sustainable fair fashion label can be adopted.

Thank you for your attention.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Sweden and the Netherlands. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

YOUR POSITION

■ High social standards

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

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- The EU promotes the worldwide protection of human rights, which includes the rights of workers in Bangladesh or Cambodia. They deserve more than slightly improved working conditions - they need good ones.
- More and more Europeans want to contribute by buying fair clothes. But how can they be sure that their money will reach the people who make the clothes? This requires clear legal labelling according to high, reliable standards.
- The EU organic food label serves as a model: it provides purchasing guidance to anyone in the EU who wants it.
- Your red lines: the regulation must noticeably improve the lives of workers. Children must be protected from exploitation.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Standards alone are not sufficient, they must be implemented and monitored. It is not enough to rely on the word of the companies. The supply chains are long and local factories are run by suppliers.
- Human rights violations are a crime. Whoever sells fair fashion is responsible for compliance with the standards – even before the courts. If faced with the possibility of high fines and imprisonment, companies will also carefully monitor their suppliers. After all, the aim is to prevent further accidents, such as fires in factories or collapsing buildings. The EU must ensure that it helps to uphold human rights worldwide.
- Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



SWEDEN



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



SWEDEN

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Finland and the Netherlands (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Commission for preparing this draft and to the Presidency for prioritising this important issue.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from _____ for the very constructive negotiations in the run-up to this meeting and for the development of a joint position.

We fully support the Commission's good work in this regard. Indeed, we welcome this ambitious proposal in every respect because _____

We are looking forward to the debate and hope that a regulation on a comprehensive and sustainable fair fashion label can be adopted.

Thank you for your attention.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Finland and the Netherlands. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

YOUR POSITION

■ High social standards

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

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- The EU promotes the worldwide protection of human rights, which includes the rights of workers in Bangladesh or Cambodia. They deserve more than slightly improved working conditions - they need good ones.
- More and more Europeans want to contribute by buying fair clothes. But how can they be sure that their money will reach the people who make the clothes? This requires clear legal labelling according to high, reliable standards.
- The EU organic food label serves as a model: it provides purchasing guidance to anyone in the EU who wants it.
- Your red lines: the regulation must noticeably improve the lives of workers. Children must be protected from exploitation.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- We need strict measures. Standards alone are not sufficient, they must be implemented and monitored. It is not enough to rely on the word of the companies. The supply chains are long and local factories are run by suppliers.
- Human rights violations are a crime. Whoever sells fair fashion is responsible for compliance with the standards – even before the courts. If faced with the possibility of high fines and imprisonment, companies will also carefully monitor their suppliers. After all, the aim is to prevent further accidents such as fires in factories or collapsing buildings. The EU must ensure that it helps to uphold human rights worldwide.
- Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



CYPRUS



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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 which hold businesses liable for proving compliance with the standards and for answering to the European courts if the standards are not met.



CYPRUS

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Italy and France (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2.
The following script might help you:
Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor.

Let me first thank the Commission for its proposal. We very much recognise the efforts of the Commission in this field.

We share with _____ not only strong ambitions to improve the fairness of trade worldwide but also a joint positions on the draft proposal.

We have come to the conclusion that high social standards as proposed by the Commission cannot be the right approach. Instead, we advocate medium social standards because _____.

Concerning the binding nature of the standards, we agree with the Commission's position.

We look forward to hearing the views of colleagues, and to reaching an agreement in the course of today's meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Italy and France. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- The European textile industry manufactures clothing which is mainly high quality, and uses good-quality fabrics and advanced processes. Wages are very high by international standards and working conditions are better than elsewhere.
- Raising standards worldwide would benefit the European textile industry. It would prevent the European market from being flooded with cheap products and fast fashion. It is important to maintain a sense of proportion and not overburden companies in Cambodia, Bangladesh or Taiwan. Medium social standards would be a first step that should be followed by others.
- Your red lines: above all, the regulation must result in better pay. This would also strengthen the position of European companies on the market.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Companies must be held accountable, and not on a voluntary basis: we advocate strict measures. Shops are already responsible for ensuring that clothes sold in the EU do not contain any harmful substances, even if they have been manufactured by other companies. It is only logical that they should also be responsible for the manufacturing process. Moderate measures such as on-the-spot checks would also be acceptable. However, the fact that these would take place outside the EU would make them more difficult to implement. The EU would have to rely on the cooperation of the producing countries. Clothing outlets will put pressure on their suppliers only when threatened with penalties. Strict measures require evidence that the standards are met. An absence of checks benefits only the cowboys, who fail to meet the standards and get away with it, thereby putting the ethical companies at a disadvantage.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



ITALY



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



ITALY

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Cyprus and France (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor.
Let me first thank the Commission for its proposal.
We very much recognise the efforts of the Commission in this field.

We share with _____
_____ not only strong ambitions to improve the fairness of trade worldwide but also a joint positions on the draft proposal.

We have come to the conclusion that high social standards as proposed by the Commission cannot be the right approach. Instead, we advocate medium social standards because _____
_____.

Concerning the binding nature of the standards, we agree with the Commission's position.

We look forward to hearing the views of colleagues, and to reaching an agreement in the course of today's meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Cyprus and France. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ Italy produces mainly high-quality clothing. More than 100 000 people work in the textile industry. The fabrics and manufacturing processes are of a high quality. Wages are very high by international standards and working conditions are better than elsewhere.

■ Raising standards worldwide would benefit the European textile industry. It would prevent the European market from being flooded with cheap products and fast fashion. It is important to maintain a sense of proportion and not overburden companies in Cambodia, Bangladesh or Taiwan. Medium social standards would be a first step that should be followed by others.

■ Your red lines: above all, the regulation must result in better pay. This would also strengthen the position of European companies on the market.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Companies must be held accountable, and not on a voluntary basis. We need strict measures. Shops are already responsible for ensuring that clothes sold in the EU do not contain any harmful substances, even if they have been manufactured by other companies. It is only logical that they should also be responsible for the manufacturing process. On-the-spot checks would also be acceptable, i.e. moderate measures. However, the fact that these would take place outside the EU would make them more difficult to implement. The EU would have to rely on the cooperation of the producing countries. Clothing outlets will put pressure on their suppliers only when threatened with penalties. Strict measures require evidence that the standards are met. An absence of checks benefits only the cowboys, who fail to meet the standards and get away with it, thereby putting ethical companies at a disadvantage.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



FRANCE



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



FRANCE

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Cyprus and Italy (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor.
Let me first thank the Commission for its proposal.
We very much recognise the efforts of the Commission in this field.

We share with _____
_____ not only strong ambitions to improve the fairness of trade worldwide but also a joint positions on the draft proposal.

We have come to the conclusion that high social standards as proposed by the Commission cannot be the right approach. Instead, we advocate medium social standards because _____
_____.

Concerning the binding nature of the standards, we agree with the Commission's position.

We look forward to hearing the views of colleagues, and to reaching an agreement during today's meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other member states' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other member states. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Cyprus and Italy. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

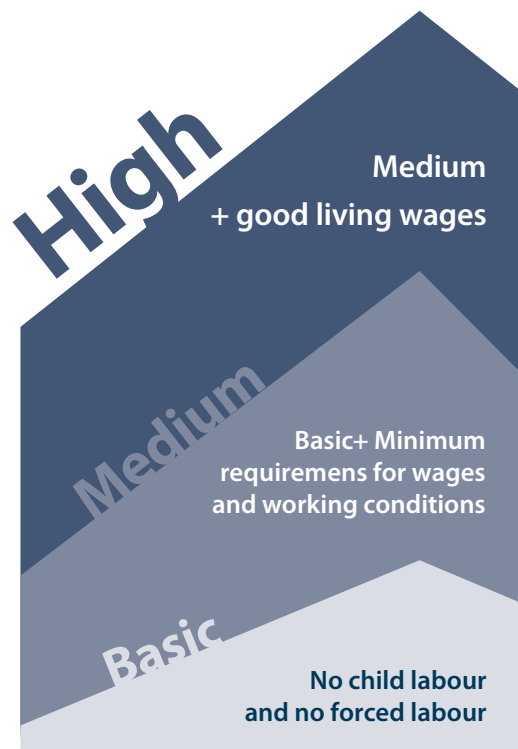
■ Medium social standards

... 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- France produces mainly high-quality clothing, and uses good-quality fabrics and advanced processes. Wages are very high by international standards and working conditions are better than elsewhere.
- Raising standards worldwide would benefit the European textile industry. It would prevent the European market from being flooded with cheap products and fast fashion. It is important to maintain a sense of proportion and not overburden companies in Cambodia, Bangladesh or Taiwan. Medium social standards would be a first step that should be followed by others.
- Your red lines: above all, the regulation must result in better pay. This would also strengthen the position of European companies on the market.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ We support strict measures: companies must be held accountable, and not on a voluntary basis. Shops are already responsible for ensuring that clothes sold in the EU do not contain any harmful substances, even if they have been manufactured by other companies. It is only logical that they should also be responsible for the manufacturing process. On-the-spot checks would also be acceptable. However, the fact that these would take place outside the EU would make them more difficult to implement. The EU would have to rely on the cooperation of the producing countries. Clothing outlets will put pressure on their suppliers only when threatened with penalties. The strict measures will require evidence that the standards are met. An absence of checks benefits only the cowboys, who fail to meet the standards and get away with it, thereby putting ethical companies at a disadvantage.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



GERMANY



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



GERMANY

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Austria and Luxembourg (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thank you, Madam/Mr President, for giving me the floor, and thanks to the Commission for presenting the draft.

We very much welcome the Commission's initiative towards fairer trade on the world markets and towards a more sustainable economic policy.

Generally speaking we support the Commission's approach. However, we wish to raise one critical point: _____

In talks prior to this meeting we agreed on a common position with _____

We suggest including medium social standards in the draft.

We are confident that we will be able to find a workable compromise in the course of this meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Austria and Luxembourg. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Medium social standards

... 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- There are many examples of companies in the textile industry which voluntarily comply with social standards during production. Take, for example, the German network 'Partnership for Sustainable Textiles'. Its members include more than 100 top-selling companies, each of which has developed its own roadmap.
- Such initiatives should be strengthened and expanded, for example in a Europe-wide alliance. It is also right to point out that consumers have a responsibility. The problem with this is that currently anyone who wants to buy fair fashion is faced with a multitude of labels, which makes it difficult to identify which products genuinely stand for good working conditions.
- It is therefore time to go one step further. Medium social standards should be a given. The EU must also demand that these standards are met in its international relations with producer countries.
- In addition, the label could have even higher standards, enabling customers to further influence retailers' standards.
- Your red lines: a good compromise must be found that improves working conditions without overburdening companies. For example, the EU cannot impose minimum wages in non-EU countries.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- On-the-spot checks are commonplace in other industries, such as the nuclear energy industry, and in the case of organic and fair trade products from all over the world. These checks are not police work but the prerequisite for any company wishing to import fashion goods into Europe. It is important that compliance with binding standards is also reliably checked. Otherwise, the first scandal will result in people no longer trusting the standards to have an effect. Strict checks are fairer for businesses. After all, companies that comply with the standards set have nothing to fear.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



LUXEMBOURG



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



LUXEMBOURG

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Germany and Austria (like-minded countries)**.
To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2.
The following script might help you:

Thank you, Madam/Mr President, for giving me the floor, and thanks to the Commission for presenting the draft. We very much welcome the Commission's initiative towards fairer trade on the world markets and towards a more sustainable economic policy.

Generally speaking, we support the Commission's approach. However, we wish to raise one critical point:

In talks prior to this meeting we agreed on a common position with _____.

We suggest including medium social standards in the draft.

We are confident that we will be able to find a workable compromise in the course of this meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Austria and Germany. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Medium social standards

... prohibiting 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- There are many examples of companies in the textile industry which voluntarily comply with social standards during production. Such initiatives should be strengthened and expanded, for example in a Europe-wide alliance.
- It is also right to point out that consumers have a responsibility. The problem with this is that currently anyone who wants to buy fair fashion is faced with a multitude of labels, which makes it difficult to identify which products genuinely stand for good working conditions.
- It is therefore time to go one step further. Medium social standards should be a given. The EU must also demand that these standards are met in its international relations with producer countries.
- In addition, the label could have even higher standards, enabling customers to further influence retailers' standards.
- Your red lines: a good compromise must be found that improves working conditions without overburdening companies. For example, the EU cannot impose minimum wages in non-EU countries.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- On-the-spot checks are commonplace in other industries, such as the nuclear energy industry, and in the case of organic and fair trade products from all over the world. These checks are not police work but the prerequisite for any company wishing to import fashion goods into Europe. It is important that compliance with binding standards is also reliably checked. Otherwise, the first scandal will result in people no longer trusting the standards to have an effect. Strict checks are fairer for businesses. After all, companies that comply with the set standards have nothing to fear.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



AUSTRIA



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



AUSTRIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Germany and Luxembourg (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thank you, Madam/Mr President, for giving me the floor, and thanks to the Commission for presenting the draft. We very much welcome the Commission's initiative towards a fairer trade on the world markets and towards a more sustainable economic policy.

Generally speaking we support the Commission's approach. However, we wish to raise one critical point: _____

In talks prior to this meeting we agreed on a common position with _____

We furthermore suggest including medium social standards in the draft.

We are confident that we will be able to find a workable compromise in the course of this meeting.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Luxembourg and Germany. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Medium social standards

... 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ There are many examples of companies in the textile industry which voluntarily comply with social standards during production. Such initiatives should be strengthened and expanded, for example in a Europe-wide alliance.

■ It is also right to point out that consumers have a responsibility. The problem with this is that currently anyone who wants to buy fair fashion is faced with a multitude of labels, which makes it difficult to identify which products genuinely stand for good working conditions.

■ It is therefore time to go one step further. Medium social standards should be a given. The EU must also demand that these standards are met in its international relations with producer countries.

■ In addition, the label could have even higher standards, enabling customers to further influence retailers' standards.

■ Your red lines: A good compromise must be found that improves working conditions without overburdening companies. For example, the EU cannot impose minimum wages in non-EU countries.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- On-the-spot checks are commonplace in other industries, such as the nuclear energy industry, or in the case of organic and fair trade products from all over the world. These checks are not police work but the prerequisite for any company wishing to import fashion goods into Europe. It is important that compliance with binding standards is also reliably checked. Otherwise, the first scandal will result in people no longer trusting the standards to have an effect. Strict checks are fairer for businesses. After all, companies that comply with the set standards have nothing to fear.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



PORTUGAL



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



PORTUGAL

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Malta, Greece and Spain (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and to the Commission for preparing a draft on this topic.

Together with our colleagues from _____ we discussed the draft in advance of today's meeting, and we agreed on the following position.

The standards in the draft are not fully in line with our approach. Let me briefly explain why: _____

Consequently, we are in favour of medium social standards, taking into consideration _____

We look forward to a lively debate on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Malta, Greece and Spain. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- There are many textile manufacturers in Portugal, with around 40 000 people working in the textile sector. The conditions in the factories are much better than in Cambodia or Bangladesh, for example. Higher social standards worldwide would improve the market position of European enterprises.
- However, European companies are part of the global supply chain. They use raw materials from other countries and benefit from lower wages and low prices. Therefore, standards that are too high would burden European companies and endanger jobs.
- There is still plenty of headroom for improving awareness of fair fashion among Europeans. Binding medium social standards could help to raise awareness of the topic among the general public. The EU should not sit idly by, waiting for citizens to discover their own responsibility and to change their purchasing behaviour.
- Your red lines: the regulation must not cost businesses too much.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- We support moderate measures for implementation of the standards. Whether the standards are more stringent or less stringent, compliance should be monitored. European companies should not be responsible for these inspections. No European company should be taken to court to prove that its partners are meeting the standards. European businesses must be protected from this. On-the-spot checks are already being carried out today, but so far only on products, for example to determine whether they contain harmful chemicals. No one would ever think of rejecting these checks on the basis that they constitute interference in the affairs of another state. The EU must therefore be the monitoring body, either via its own inspectors or through partner institutes in producing countries.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

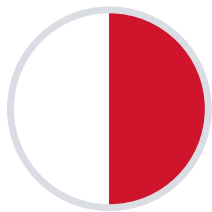
PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



MALTA



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 model.

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 to provide greater clarity for consumers throughout the EU.

Article 1

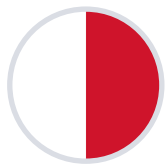
MINIMUM SOCIAL STANDARDS

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.



MALTA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Portugal, Greece and Spain (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and thank you to the Commission for preparing a draft on this topic.

Together with our colleagues from _____ we discussed the draft in advance of today's meeting, and we agreed on the following position.

The standards in the draft are not fully in line with our approach. Let me briefly explain why: _____.

Consequently, we are in favour of medium social standards, taking into consideration _____. Regarding the binding nature of the standards, we support moderate measures.

We look forward to a lively debate on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Portugal, Greece and Spain. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- There are many textile manufacturers in Europe, with around 560 000 people working in the textile sector. The conditions in the factories are much better than in Cambodia or Bangladesh, for example. Higher social standards worldwide would improve the market position of European enterprises.
- However, European companies are part of the global supply chain. They use raw materials from other countries and benefit from lower wages and low prices. Therefore, standards that are too high would burden European companies and endanger jobs.
- There is still plenty of headroom for improving awareness of fair fashion among Europeans. Binding medium social standards could help to raise awareness of the topic among the general public. The EU should not sit idly by, waiting for citizens to discover their own responsibility and to change their purchasing behaviour.
- Your red lines: the regulation must not cost businesses too much.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- We support moderate measures for implementation of the standards. Whether the standards are more stringent or less stringent, compliance should be monitored. European companies should not be responsible for these inspections. No European company should be taken to court to prove that its partners are meeting the standards. European businesses must be protected from this. On-the-spot checks are already being carried out today, but so far only on products, for example to determine whether they contain chemicals. No one would ever think of rejecting these checks on the basis that they constitute interference in the affairs of another state. The EU must therefore be the monitoring body, either via its own inspectors or through partner institutes in producing countries.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



GREECE



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



GREECE

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Portugal, Malta and Spain (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and to the Commission for preparing a draft on this topic.

Together with our colleagues from

_____ we discussed the draft in advance of today's meeting, and we agreed on the following position.

The standards in the draft are not fully in line with our approach. Let me briefly explain why: _____.

Consequently, we are in favour of medium social standards, taking into consideration _____.
At the same time, we support on-the-spot checks for the implementation of the standards.

We look forward to a lively debate on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Portugal, Malta and Spain. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ There are many textile manufacturers in Europe, with around 560 000 people working in the textile sector. The conditions in the factories are much better than in Cambodia or Bangladesh, for example. Higher social standards worldwide would improve the market position of European enterprises.

■ However, European companies are part of the global supply chain. They use raw materials from other countries and benefit from lower wages and low prices. Therefore, standards that are too high would burden European companies and endanger jobs. There is still plenty of headroom for improving awareness of fair fashion among Europeans.

■ Binding medium social standards could help to raise the topic among the general public. The EU should not sit idly by, waiting for citizens to discover their own responsibility and to change their purchasing behaviour.

■ Your red lines: the regulation must not cost businesses too much.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Whether the standards are more stringent or less stringent, compliance should be monitored, so we support moderate measures for this. European companies should not be responsible for these inspections. No European company should be taken to court to prove that its partners are meeting the standards. European businesses must be protected from this. On-the-spot checks are already being carried out today, but so far only on products, for example to determine whether they contain chemicals. No one would ever think of rejecting these checks on the basis that they constitute interference in the affairs of another state. The EU must therefore be the monitoring body, either via its own inspectors or through partner institutes in production countries.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



SPAIN



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



SPAIN

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Portugal, Malta and Greece (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and to the Commission for preparing a draft on this topic.

Together with our colleagues from _____ we discussed the draft in advance of today's meeting, and we agreed on the following position.

The standards in the draft are not fully in line with our approach. Let me briefly explain why: _____.

Consequently, we are in favour of medium social standards, taking into consideration _____.

We are also in favour of moderate measures for monitoring the implementation.

We look forward to a lively debate on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Portugal, Malta and Greece. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- There are many textile manufacturers in Spain, with around 40 000 people working in the textile sector. The conditions in the factories are much better than in Cambodia or Bangladesh, for example. Higher social standards worldwide would improve the market position of European enterprises.
- However, European companies are part of the global supply chain. They use raw materials from other countries and benefit from lower wages and low prices. Therefore, standards that are too high would burden European companies and endanger jobs.
- There is still plenty of headroom for improving awareness of fair fashion among Europeans. Binding medium social standards could help to raise awareness of the topic among the general public. The EU should not sit idly by, waiting for citizens to discover their own responsibility and to change their purchasing behaviour.
- Your red lines: the regulation must not cost businesses too much.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ 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:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Whether the standards are more stringent or less stringent, compliance should be monitored, so we are in favour of moderate measures for this. European companies should not be responsible for these inspections. No European company should be taken to court to prove that its partners are meeting the standards. European businesses must be protected from this. On-the-spot checks are already being carried out today, but so far only on products, for example to determine whether they contain chemicals. No one would ever think of rejecting these checks on the basis that they constitute interference in the affairs of another state. The EU must therefore be the monitoring body, either via its own inspectors or through partner institutes in production countries.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

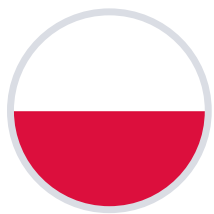
PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



POLAND



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



POLAND

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Estonia, Czechia and Slovenia (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Colleagues,

It's important to keep fair trade at the top of our political agenda. The Commission's proposal is an important step in this regard.

However, we should also take alternative solutions into consideration.

We cannot agree to the high social standards proposed by the Commission because _____

For Article 2, we consider general commitments in the form of a 'code of conduct' to be sufficient, i.e. we are in favour of light measures.

Regarding these aspects, we share a common position with our colleagues from _____.

We look forward to working with you on a balanced and consistent regulation.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Estonia, the Czechia and Slovenia. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Consumers have the power. It is up to them to change the fashion industry. They must adapt their buying habits and demand fair working conditions from fashion labels. The EU should support a rethink among consumers.
- In your country there is still a lot to do: less than one in seven people buy clothes according to ethical standards. Many countries already have good initiatives for raising customers' awareness of the problems in the fashion industry. The EU should build on these approaches. You should support basic social standards.
- Your red lines: poor working conditions and poor pay are problems that need solving. However, they should not be addressed by the EU unilaterally.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ Fair fashion thrives on public awareness. Consumers must demand transparency. Anyone who is out shopping for clothes can ask where and under what conditions the clothes were made. If many customers ask these questions, companies will react. The EU can help by proposing best practices that companies can implement. In Poland there are already good approaches, namely the best-practice handbook Towards Responsible Fashion. Companies deciding of their own accord to commit to something is the best way forward. Otherwise, fashion labels will lose face and look like fraudsters.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



ESTONIA



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



ESTONIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Poland, Czechia and Slovenia (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Colleagues,

It's important to keep fair trade at the top of our political agenda. The Commission proposal is an important step in this regard.

However, we should also take alternative solutions into consideration.

We cannot agree to the high social standards proposed by the Commission because _____.

For Article 2, we consider general commitments in the form of a 'code of conduct' to be sufficient, i.e. we are in favour of light measures.

Regarding these aspects, we share a common position with our colleagues from _____.

We look forward to working with you on a balanced and consistent regulation.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Poland, Czechia and Slovenia. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ Consumers have the power. It is up to them to change the fashion industry. They must adapt their buying habits and demand fair working conditions from fashion labels. Therefore, you argue for basic social standards.

■ The EU should support a rethink among consumers. In Estonia there is still a lot to do: less than one in seven people consider ethical standards when buying clothes. Many countries already have good initiatives for raising customers' awareness of the problems in the fashion industry. The EU should build on these approaches.

■ Your red lines: poor working conditions and poor pay are problems that need solving. However, they should not be addressed by the EU unilaterally.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Fair fashion thrives on public awareness. Consumers must demand transparency. Anyone who is out shopping for clothes can ask where and under what conditions the clothes were made. If many customers ask these questions, companies will react. The EU can help by proposing best practices that companies can implement. Information about promising approaches in the member states could be shared. Companies deciding of their own accord to commit to something is the best way forward. Otherwise, fashion labels will lose face in public and look like fraudsters.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



CZECHIA



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



CZECHIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Estonia, Poland and Slovenia (like-minded countries)**.
To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2.
The following script might help you:

Colleagues,

It's important to keep fair trade at the top of our political agenda. The Commission's proposal is an important step in this regard.

However, we should also take alternative solutions into consideration.

We cannot agree to the high social standards proposed by the Commission because _____

For Article 2, we consider light measures in the form of a 'code of conduct' to be sufficient.

Regarding these aspects, we share a common position with our colleagues from _____

We look forward to working with you on a balanced and consistent regulation.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Estonia, Poland and Slovenia. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Consumers have the power. It is up to them to change the fashion industry. They must adapt their buying habits and demand fair working conditions from fashion labels. The EU should support a rethink among consumers.
- In Czechia there is still a lot to do: less than one in seven people buy clothes according to ethical standards. Many countries already have good initiatives for raising customers' awareness of the problems in the fashion industry. The EU should build on these approaches.
- Your red lines: poor working conditions and poor pay are problems that need solving. However, they should not be addressed by the EU unilaterally.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ Fair fashion thrives on public awareness. Consumers must demand transparency. Anyone who is out shopping for clothes can ask where and under what conditions the clothes were made. If many customers ask these questions, companies will react. The EU can help by proposing best practices that companies can implement. Information about promising approaches in the member states could be shared. Companies deciding of their own accord to commit to something is the best way forward. Otherwise, fashion labels will lose face and look like fraudsters.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



SLOVENIA



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



SLOVENIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Estonia, Czechia and Poland (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Colleagues,

It's important to keep fair trade at the top of our political agenda. The Commission's proposal is an important step in this regard.

However, we should also take alternative solutions into consideration.

We cannot agree to the high social standards proposed by the Commission because _____.

For Article 2, we consider light measures in the form of a 'code of conduct' to be sufficient.

Regarding these aspects, we share a common position with our colleagues from _____.

We look forward to working with you on a balanced and consistent regulation.

Thank you.



4. Present your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Estonia, Czechia and Poland. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Consumers have the power. It is up to them to change the fashion industry. They must adapt their buying habits and demand fair working conditions from fashion labels.
- The EU should support a rethink among consumers. In Slovenia there is still a lot to do: less than one in seven people consider ethical standards when buying clothes. Many countries already have good initiatives for raising customers' awareness of the problems in the fashion industry. The EU should build on these approaches.
- Your red lines: poor working conditions and poor pay are problems that need solving. However, they should not be addressed by the EU unilaterally.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Fair fashion thrives on public awareness. Consumers must demand transparency. Anyone who is out shopping for clothes can ask where and under what conditions the clothes were made. If many customers ask these questions, companies will react. The EU can help by proposing best practices that companies can implement. Information about promising approaches in the member states could be shared. Companies deciding of their own accord to commit to something is the best way forward. Otherwise, fashion labels will lose face and look like fraudsters.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



LATVIA



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



LATVIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Hungary, Slovakia and Lithuania (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and thanks to my colleagues for the contributions made so far.

Above all, I would like to thank my colleagues from _____ for the targeted deliberations prior to this meeting, where we reached joint positions.

We would like to take this opportunity to express some points of criticism regarding the Commission's draft: _____

Against this background, we argue for basic social standards implemented by means of general commitments on the part of retailers to _____

We look forward to working together on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Hungary, Slovakia and Lithuania. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Only 10 % of people in Latvia consider ethical standards when shopping. If the issue is not important to people, the EU should not legislate in this area.
- By passing new laws, the EU is creating even more dissatisfaction. People feel patronised, treated like small children being taught by the EU how to behave.
- If you really want to change something, you first have to create awareness of the problem. So much more is gained if you can convince people to change their buying habits.
- Basic social standards would be acceptable. If countries want more, they can offer additional support measures.
- Your red lines: the regulation must not make clothing more expensive. People should not be given any more reasons to be angry with the EU.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Many people rightly complain about the kind of unnecessary EU bureaucracy proposed in Article 2. EU officials monitoring factories around the world? European courts putting companies worldwide on trial? And all paid for by the European taxpayer. Yes, the EU champions human rights worldwide. But that does not mean it should act like some sort of world police and jury rolled into one. That is arrogant and invasive. Fairer trade must come from the people. As long as they have no interest in fair products, the EU should not impose them. General commitments are the way to go, because they encourage consumers to force companies into creating fairer conditions by asking questions and, in the event of infringements, buying elsewhere. The EU is the wrong authority to try and enforce this.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



HUNGARY



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



HUNGARY

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Latvia, Slovakia and Lithuania (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and thanks to my colleagues for the contributions made so far.

Above all, I would like to thank my colleagues from _____ for the targeted deliberations prior to this meeting, where we reached joint positions.

We would like to take this opportunity to express some points of criticism regarding the Commission's draft:

Against this background, we argue for basic social standards implemented by means of general commitments on the part of retailers to _____.

We look forward to working together on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Latvia, Slovakia and Lithuania. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Only 10 % of people in your country consider ethical standards when shopping. If the issue is not important to people, the EU should not legislate in this area.
- By passing new laws, the EU is creating even more dissatisfaction. People feel patronised, treated like small children being taught by the EU how to behave.
- If you really want to change something, you first have to create awareness of the problem. So much more is gained if you can convince people to change their buying habits.
- Basic social standards would be acceptable. If countries want more, they can offer additional support measures.
- Your red lines: the regulation must not make clothing more expensive. People should not be given any more reasons to be angry with the EU
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Many people rightly complain about the kind of unnecessary EU bureaucracy proposed in Article 2. EU officials monitoring factories around the world? European courts putting companies worldwide on trial? And all paid for by the European taxpayer. Yes, the EU champions human rights worldwide. But that does not mean it should act like some sort of world police and jury rolled into one. That is arrogant and invasive. Fairer trade must come from the people. As long as they have no interest in fair products, the EU should not impose them. General commitments are the way to go, because they encourage consumers to force companies into creating fairer conditions by asking questions and, in the event of infringements, buying elsewhere. The EU is the wrong authority to try and enforce this.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



SLOVAKIA



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



SLOVAKIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and thanks to my colleagues for the contributions made so far.

Above all, I would like to thank my colleagues from _____

for the targeted deliberations prior to this meeting, where we reached joint positions.

We would like to take this opportunity to express some points of criticism regarding the Commission's draft: _____

Against this background, we argue for basic social standards implemented by means of general commitments on the part of retailers to _____

We look forward to working together on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Less than 10 % of people in in your country consider ethical standards when shopping. If the issue is not important to people, the EU should not legislate in this area.
- By passing new laws, the EU is creating even more dissatisfaction. People feel patronised, treated like small children being taught by the EU how to behave.
- If you really want to change something, you first have to create awareness of the problem. So much more is gained if you can convince people to change their buying habits.
- Basic social standards would be acceptable. If countries want more, they can offer additional support measures.
- Your red lines: the regulation must not make clothing more expensive. People should not be given any more reasons to be angry with the EU.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Many people rightly complain about the kind of unnecessary EU bureaucracy proposed in Article 2. EU officials monitoring factories around the world? European courts putting companies worldwide on trial? And all paid for by the European taxpayer. Yes, the EU champions human rights worldwide. But that does not mean it should act like some sort of world police and jury rolled into one. That is arrogant and invasive. Fairer trade must come from the people. As long as they have no interest in fair products, the EU should not impose them. General commitments are the way to go, because they encourage consumers to force companies into creating fairer conditions by asking questions and, in the event of infringements, buying elsewhere. The EU is the wrong authority to try and enforce this.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



LITHUANIA



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



LITHUANIA

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Hungary, Slovakia and Latvia (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thanks to the Presidency for giving me the floor and thanks to my colleagues for the contributions made so far.

Above all, I would like to thank my colleagues from

for the targeted deliberations prior to this meeting, where we reached joint positions.

We would like to take this opportunity to express some points of criticism regarding the Commission's draft:

Against this background, we argue for basic social standards implemented by means of general commitments on the part of retailers to

We look forward to working together on this issue.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Hungary, Slovakia and Latvia. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ Less than 10 % of people in your country consider ethical standards when shopping. If the issue is not important to people, the EU should not legislate in this area.

■ By passing new laws, the EU is creating even more dissatisfaction. People feel patronised, treated like small children being taught by the EU how to behave. If you really want to change something, you first have to create awareness of the problem. So much more is gained if you can convince people to change their buying habits.

■ Basic social standards would be acceptable. If countries want more, they can offer additional support measures.

■ Your red lines: the regulation must not make clothing more expensive. People should not be given any more reasons to be angry with the EU.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Many people rightly complain about the kind of unnecessary EU bureaucracy proposed in Article 2. EU officials monitoring factories around the world? European courts putting companies worldwide on trial? And all paid for by the European taxpayer. Yes, the EU champions human rights worldwide. But that does not mean it should act like some sort of world police and jury rolled into one. That is arrogant and invasive. Fairer trade must come from the people. As long as they have no interest in fair products, the EU should not impose them. General commitments are the way to go, because they encourage consumers to force companies into creating fairer conditions by asking questions and, in the event of infringements, buying elsewhere. The EU is the wrong authority to try and enforce this.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



DENMARK



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



DENMARK

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Belgium and Ireland (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thank you, Madam/Mr President, and thank you to the Commission for presenting a draft on this crucial issue.

We are very much in favour of further developing fair trade schemes in the EU and worldwide and we are pleased to be here today for the debate on a new fair fashion label.

However, we question the Commission's approach of including high social standards as we are not fully convinced of the need for this. The same is true for Article 2. We argue for basic social standards implemented by means of general commitments on the part of retailers.

We have agreed a common position with _____.

We are confident that we will be able to find a workable solution today.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Belgium and Ireland. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

OPTIONS

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- The trend towards fair fashion should be supported - but not by means of EU regulations.
- EU citizens want to buy more fair products. But the industry will comply with this wish on its own. Many designers are already placing considerable emphasis on sustainable production.
- There are already some great initiatives that people have developed without there being any laws telling them to do so. The EU should encourage consumers, local communities and businesses to start a bottom-up change in the fashion industry.
- Your red lines: consumers must be free to choose whether they want to invest more money in fair fashion. If it is simply not important to people, the EU should not force them to do so.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ 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.

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Companies should be believed when they say they want to fulfil their customers' wishes. They will follow the rules of their own accord. Customer satisfaction and trust guarantee their success in the market. Violations of the standards will become public and damage the reputation of the company in question. No business can afford that. The notion that EU officials should go to textile factories like some kind of world police, uncovering wrongdoings in foreign lands, is a strange one. That is not the EU's role in the world. European companies cannot be brought to justice for something that companies elsewhere in the world have done. This is contrary to the rule of law as advocated by the EU worldwide.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



BELGIUM



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



BELGIUM

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information** which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Denmark and Ireland (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thank you, Madam/Mr President, and thank you to the Commission for presenting a draft on this crucial issue.

We are very much in favour of further developing fair trade schemes in the EU and worldwide and we are pleased to be here today for the debate on a new fair fashion label.

However, we question the Commission's approach of including high social standards as we are not fully convinced of the need for this. The same is true for Article 2. We argue for basic social standards implemented by means of general commitments on the part of retailers.

We have agreed on a common position with _____.

We are confident that we will be able to find a workable solution today.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Denmark and Ireland. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

- The trend towards fair fashion should be supported - but not by means of EU regulations.
- EU citizens want to buy more fair products. But the industry will comply with this wish on its own. Many designers are already placing considerable emphasis on sustainable production.
- There are already some great initiatives that people have developed without there being any laws telling them to do so. For instance, the Belgian city of Ghent is a 'Fair and Ethical Trade City'. Many retailers and initiatives offer fair products.
- Your red lines: consumers must be free to choose whether they want to invest more money in fair fashion. If it is simply not important to people, the EU should not force them to do so.
- Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ **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.

YOUR POSITION

■ **Light measures**

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

■ **Other option:**

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Companies should be believed when they say they want to fulfil their customers' wishes. They will follow the rules of their own accord. Customer satisfaction and trust guarantee their success in the market. Violations of the standards will become public and damage the reputation of the company in question. No business can afford that. The notion that EU officials should go to textile factories like some kind of world police, uncovering wrongdoings in foreign lands, is a strange one. That is not the EU's role in the world. European companies cannot be brought to justice for something that companies elsewhere in the world have done. This is contrary to the rule of law as advocated by the EU worldwide.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium



IRELAND



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 model.

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 to provide greater 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.



IRELAND

Agenda

On the Competitiveness Council 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

A common position of the Council that reflects your interests. You can also consider supporting a compromise option that partly reflects your interests.

Your tasks

1. Carefully **read your group information**, which sets out your interests and positions.
2. You share **similar positions with Belgium and Denmark (like-minded countries)**. To achieve your common goals more efficiently, you should cooperate closely. Use the informal breaks to talk to each other.
3. Prepare an **opening statement** (maximum 1 minute) for the first round of official negotiations. State your position on Articles 1 and 2. The following script might help you:

Thank you, Madam/Mr President, and thank you to the Commission for presenting a draft on this crucial issue.

We are very much in favour of further developing fair trade schemes in the EU and worldwide and we are pleased to be here today for the debate on a new fair fashion label.

However, we question the Commission's approach of including high social standards as we are not fully convinced of the need for this. The same is true for Article 2. We argue for basic social standards implemented by means of general commitments on the part of retailers.

We have agreed on a common position with _____

We are confident that we will be able to find a workable solution today.

Thank you.



4. Make your opening statement when the Presidency (who chairs the meeting) gives you the floor. If you agree with other countries' positions that have already been mentioned, make this clear.
5. Listen carefully to the positions of the other countries. **Fill in the table on page 7** to keep track of their positions. A major part of the negotiations is about listening to each other and finding solutions that work for everyone.
6. During the official negotiations, **present your positions and arguments** together with the like-minded countries. Decide in advance who is going to take the floor to speak on behalf of your countries on Articles 1 and 2.
7. Of course, it is **your decision how to vote** in the end. But you might want to discuss this with your colleagues from Belgium and Denmark. Be aware that when it comes to the final vote on a compromise proposal, you need to decide whether you prefer a compromise with which you 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

■ High social standards

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

■ Medium social standards

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Basic social standards

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

■ Other option:



YOUR ARGUMENTS

■ The trend towards fair fashion should be supported – but not by means of EU regulations.

■ EU citizens want to buy more fair products. But the industry will comply with this wish on its own. Many designers are already placing considerable emphasis on sustainable production.

■ There are already some great initiatives that people have developed without there being any laws telling them to do so. The EU should encourage consumers, local communities and businesses to start a bottom-up change in the fashion industry.

■ Your red lines: consumers must be free to choose whether they want to invest more money in fair fashion. If it is simply not important to people, the EU should not force them to do so.

■ Your notes:

ARTICLE 2

Binding nature of the standards

■ Strict measures

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

■ Moderate measures

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

YOUR POSITION

■ Light measures

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

■ Other option:

Strict measures

businesses are liable to prove compliance with the standards

Moderate measures

on-the-spot checks whether the standards are being met

Light measures

general commitments to comply with the standards

YOUR ARGUMENTS

- Companies should be believed when they say they want to fulfil their customers' wishes. They will follow the rules of their own accord. Customer satisfaction and trust guarantee their success in the market. Violations of the standards will become public and damage the reputation of the company in question. No business can afford that. The notion that EU officials should go to textile factories like some kind of world police, uncovering wrongdoings in foreign lands, is a strange one. That is not the EU's role in the world. European companies cannot be brought to justice for something that companies elsewhere in the world have done. This is contrary to the rule of law as advocated by the EU worldwide.

■ Your notes:

	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								



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 (0)2 281 61 11
www.consilium.europa.eu

NOTICE

This publication is produced by the General Secretariat of the Council and is intended for information purposes only. It does not involve the responsibility of the EU institutions or the member states.

For further information on the European Council and the Council, see the website:
www.consilium.europa.eu

or contact the Public Information Service of the General Secretariat of the Council:

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.consilium.europa.eu/infopublic

More information on the European Union is available on
www.europa.eu.

Brussels:
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, 2020.

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7152-4
doi:10.2860/05142
QC-02-19-968-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-824-7123-4
doi:10.2860/352715
QC-02-19-968-EN-N

© European Union, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

For use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder.

Printed in Belgium