



European Union
Statement

ILO

316th Session of the Governing Body

(1 – 16 November 2012)

Latest developments in Fiji
in the light of the resolution of the 15th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting
(GB 316/INS/8)

Geneva, 14 November 2012

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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EU Statement on

**Latest developments in Fiji
in the light of the resolution of the 15th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting
(GB 316/INS/8)**

I speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland† and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this declaration.

The European Union has noted some positive developments in Fiji this year, notably the launch of a political process that would see a new constitution by 2013 and new parliamentary elections by 2014, and looks forward to the government lifting remaining restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In that context, the EU regrets that an International Labour Organisation (ILO) fact-finding mission to Fiji on 18 September 2012 was asked to expedite its departure from Fiji without being able to complete its work.

The European Union attaches great importance to human rights, including freedom of association, and recognises the important role played by the ILO in promoting and protecting international labour standards.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

† Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

The EU encourages the Fiji Government to engage with the ILO in order to enable the organisation of a new fact-finding mission.

The EU notes that Fiji Convention 87 was a double footnoted case in the Preliminary list of possible cases to be examined by the Committee on the Application of Standards at the ILC in June 2012.

The EU believes that the decision contained in the resolution is not different from a Governing Body decision. While we agree on substance, we would like to stress that this resolution should not create a precedent and that the appropriate forum for discussing cases like this one is the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards.

Thank you chair.