



European Union

Statement

**ILO Governing Body, 322nd session
(30 October – 13 November 2014)**

"Complaint concerning non-observance by Fiji of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), made by delegates to the 102nd Session (2013) of the International Labour Conference under article 26 of the ILO Constitution"

(GB.322/INS/9)

Geneva, 12 November 2014

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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EU Statement

Thank you chair,

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration^{*}: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, the Republic of Moldova.

We attach great importance to human rights, including freedom of association, and recognise the important role played by the ILO in developing, promoting and supervising international labour standards. The European Union as well as its member States are engaged in the promotion of universal ratification and implementation of the four ILO core labour standards.

We call on the Government of Fiji to respect its commitments regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for democratic principles and the rule of law. We urge the Government to ensure that freedom of expression and assembly are respected.

We are encouraged that finally the Direct Contacts Mission took place. At the same time, we would like to underline the importance of addressing the remaining shortcomings highlighted in the conclusions of the Mission.

^{*} Turkey is a Candidate country; the Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

We encourage the Government to take into account these conclusions and to amend or repeal labour laws that are not in conformity with ratified ILO Conventions.

We also encourage the Government to cooperate further with the Office in this regard, including the elaboration of a comprehensive training and capacity building programme as indicated in paragraph 92 of the report.

We also encourage the Government to achieve tripartite consensus on the Memorandum of Understanding on the future labour relations in Fiji.

With regard to the upcoming trade union elections we take note of the guidelines announced by the Fijian Elections Office. We call on the Government to ensure that trade unions can elect their office bearers in full freedom.

We support the point for decision contained in paragraph 3 of document INS/9/1.

Thank you chair.