



## **European Union**

### **Statement**

**ILO Governing Body, 323<sup>rd</sup> session  
(12-27 March 2015)**

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**"Complaint concerning non-observance by Qatar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1947 (No. 81), made by delegates to the 103<sup>rd</sup> Session (2014) of the International Labour Conference under article 26 of the ILO Constitution"**

**(GB.323/INS/8)**

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**Geneva, 26 March 2015**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

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**(GB.322/INS/8)**

**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 and Georgia.

We attach great importance to human rights, including the abolition of forced labour, and recognise the important role played by the ILO in developing, promoting and supervising international labour standards. The European Union and its Member States are engaged in the promotion of universal ratification and implementation of the eight ILO fundamental conventions. We also promote safe and healthy workplaces worldwide, including through our contribution to the G20 October 2014 Declaration on this matter, as well as our multilateral and bilateral activities.

We believe that compliance with the ILO fundamental conventions is essential for social and economic stability in any country and that an environment conducive to dialogue and trust between employers, workers and governments contributes to creating a basis for solid and sustainable growth and inclusive societies.

We are ready to support Qatar in its implementation efforts regarding ILO Conventions and encourage the Qatari authorities to work closely with the ILO.

We encourage the Government step up its efforts towards implementing ILO Conventions 29 and 81 by engaging with the ILO. We wish to use this opportunity to commend the Office for carrying out a Mission last February at the invitation of the Government of Qatar. We also thank the Government for the information provided.

In this context, we encourage the Government of Qatar to step up its cooperation with the ILO and give full support to the High Level Tripartite mission as foreseen in point 7 of the document under discussion.

We support the draft decision point contained in paragraph 7 of the document INS/8 revision 1.

Thank you chairperson.