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## PRESS RELEASE

### Launch of the Team Europe Initiative on Decent Work

Today the European Union with its member states launched the Team Europe Initiative on Decent Work. This initiative responds to the global Decent Work Agenda and includes interventions in support of all four pillars of this agenda: employment creation, social protection, rights at work, and social dialogue.

The virtual launch took place in the framework of the first "Bangladesh-EU film festival" (BEUFF), running until June 30. The event begun with the online screening of the Bangladeshi short-film 'Meenalap' (Fish Monologue). The Ambassadors of the European Union, the Netherlands and Denmark were present at the launch, as well as the Country Director of the ILO and the film director.

The EU Ambassador, Rensje Teerink, said *"The objective of the "Team Europe" approach is to combine resources from the EU, its Member States, like-minded European Countries and financial institutions. We are all in this to make a difference, and to support the strengthening of Bangladesh's economy by working for more and better jobs. With the Team Europe Initiative on Decent Work, we act jointly in moving this agenda forward, both with already ongoing interventions and those planned for the future."*

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Harry Verweij, added *"The Team Europe Initiative on Decent Work focuses on two closely interconnected tracks: skills & employment, and creating an improved enabling environment and quality jobs. The Netherlands has several ongoing projects under the Team Europe Initiative, including on improving the working conditions in the Ready-Made Garments sector. I believe that the Decent Work agenda will further strengthen the economic resilience of Bangladesh"*.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Winnie Estrup Petersen, said *"Denmark is proud to be part of the Team Europe Initiative. COVID 19 has shown us how dependent we are on each other – and it is just another reason to prioritise long term goals, broad cooperation and sustainable relations. With the Team Europe Initiative, EU and we, the member states, want to work closer to each other in order to achieve solid results together with our Bangladeshi partners within this area"*. She added that *"Being part of the EU Team*



*Europe Initiative on Decent Work comes natural as Denmark already actively supports Decent Work and Economic Growth through a number of projects in Bangladesh. The Decent Work agenda is a comprehensive one aiming at promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers combined with sustaining the per capita economic growth. Denmark has very much focused on health and safety, social dialogue and productivity”.*

The intended outcomes of the initiative are the following: (1) Workers in Bangladesh, in particular youth, women and other vulnerable groups, have increased access to demand-driven skills training systems and job improved employment opportunities with the goals to support diversification of the economy, strengthen socio-economic mobility and increase domestic purchasing power; and (2) Workers in Bangladesh are able to rely on consistent, cross-sectoral, rule-based workplace safety and protection, in line with minimum international labour standards.

Activities supported by France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway are also part of the Team Europe Initiative on Decent Work.

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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

