

Fair Trade Manifesto

European Parliament Elections May 2014

The collapse on 24 April 2013 of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh, killing 1129 and injuring 2500 workers, and the death on 3 October 2013 of 500 migrants in Lampedusa are two recent tragic events that have shaken the world's conscience. Despite their differences, they are, in essence, a result of the same problem: poverty forcing people to risk their lives in hope for a better future.

Farmers and workers are often squeezed in the most labour-intensive phases of production, both in Europe and abroad. Lack of decent work conditions, child labour and production methods that harm the environment are all attributes of unfair trade, which the Fair Trade movement seeks to eradicate.

The vision of the Fair Trade movement is "A world in which justice and sustainable development are at the heart of trade structures and practices so that everyone, through their work, can maintain a decent and dignified livelihood and develop their full human potential".

As defined by the Charter of Fair Trade Principles "Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the South. Fair Trade Organizations, backed by consumers, are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practices of conventional international trade".

Fair Trade is not about charity, it is about empowering people to trade their way out of poverty. Fair Trade is not anti-business. On the contrary, the Fair Trade movement wishes to continue its long-standing engagement with the private sector and continue serving as a catalyst for more fairness and sustainability in supply chains.

The European Union, and the Members of the European Parliament in particular, can play a key role in making International Trade meet societal goals, such as decent work and the right to food.

Across the European Union, the Fair Trade movement has hundreds of networks of volunteers ready to engage in political advocacy and speak out for Fair Trade and Trade Justice. It is therefore the responsibility of the Fair Trade movement to connect European citizens with the policy-making process at EU level. That is why the Fair Trade movement has organised the present Vote for Fair Trade (Vote4FT) campaign in the context of the European Parliament elections of May 2014.

The main Fair Trade movement expectations have been put together in the form of five key demands. In order to allow EU citizens to make an informed voting decision, information on what each candidate has committed to will be made publically available on: www.fairtrade-advocacy.org.

New deputies will be invited to join the European Parliament Fair Trade Working Group, an existing informal cross-party group committed to support Fair Trade at EU level.

Do you support Fair Trade?

The Fair Trade movement is looking for candidates wishing to become Fair Trade champions in the European Parliament's 2014-2019 term, are YOU interested?

(Support all , or please indicate below which individual demands you pledge to support)

If elected Member of the European Parliament for the 2014-2019 legislative term, I pledge to:

1. Promote a people-centred economy and people-centred businesses where people come first and economic activities support sustainable livelihoods for all.
2. Back a strong European framework to address abuses of buyer power in our supply chains, a market failure that often results in the violation of human rights of marginalised producers and workers.

3. Encourage market-based incentives to facilitate producers having the possibility to trade under Fair Trade conditions and the development of Fair Trade markets both in Europe and the South, in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Framework post-2015.

4. Support an "Alternative Trade Mandate" to ensure that EU trade policy serves as a tool to increase economic, social and environmental well-being globally. In order to serve the general interest, trade policy should be subject to democratic and transparent debate, rather than being driven by powerful business lobbies pushing behind doors their specific short-term interests.

5. Become a champion for a European strategy for Fair Trade to promote best practices and coordinate local, regional, national and EU-level activities in support of Fair Trade, as already asked for unanimously by the Committee of the Regions.

Name, party and signature _____



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