



Brussels, 4 July 2018

Dear HR/VP Mogherini,  
Dear Commissioner Malmstrom,  
Dear Commissioner Thyssen,

We are addressing you regarding the fact-finding mission that DG Trade, DG EMPL and the EEAS will undertake in Cambodia from 5 until 11 July to assess Cambodia's compliance with its human rights obligations enshrined in the EBA scheme the country benefits from. We deeply appreciate that the Commission and the EEAS have organised this mission, as called for by the 14 December 2017 European Parliament resolution on Cambodia and as requested by the February 2018 Council Conclusions on Cambodia. This is a positive step to evaluate if the commitments included in the EBA are being fulfilled and we hope that this will be a practice to follow in the other existent agreements of this sort.

As parliamentarians we are deeply worried about the political developments and the continuous repression of media and civil society in the country. We believe that there is no legitimacy in an electoral process where the main opposition party has been arbitrarily excluded, and we respectfully expect your statements in this regard to take this worrisome circumstances into account. In that context, we welcome the EU's timely decision to withdraw all forms of support to the National Election Committee, and we expect the EU delegation and member states embassies' staff to abstain from any monitoring activity that could in any way be interpreted by the Cambodian government as a legitimisation of the electoral process.

While we appreciate the efforts undertaken by the EEAS and the Commission to set up this mission, we would like to stress the importance of publically reporting its findings to the citizens and to this Parliament, including with regards to the follow-up of the Council Conclusions of February, which also called for targeted measures in case there are no improvements of the situation in the country. We believe that this is a necessary step in order to ensure the principle of transparency and we look forward to a debriefing on your activities and findings.

Yours faithfully,

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