

Thank you for your email concerning the Syrian refugee issue in apparel factories in Turkey. s.Oliver is very aware of this problem and we appreciate your approach to help inform efforts across the whole industry. This is a pressing and difficult topic, not only in Turkey, but as you know also in the European Union. Regarding our production in Turkey, we have raised awareness among our entire Turkish suppliers, informed them about the urgency of the issue and sought a thorough exchange. Our auditors are sensitive to this issue and also ensure that there is no exploitation of child labor and no illegal subcontracting. However, social insurance, just like many other issues, remains a problem, which we cannot tackle by ourselves.

As a member of the Fair Labor Association (FLA) we therefore approach the topic in a Multi-Stakeholder approach and participate at roundtable meetings. We do not believe that single companies have the necessary leverage to enforce changes in the industry and in politics. We believe that the Turkish government has to assume responsibility for the creation of work-permits for the refugees, in order to protect their rights at work just the same as those of Turkish workers. We actively encourage our suppliers to secure these work permits for any Syrian workers.

We are curious on the further outcome of your research and are confident that with the support of our partnership with the FLA, we can improve our system so that we can help to change the situation for the better.