

**Question for written answer E-011165/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Need for protection of social rights

The one and only substantial initiative concerning human rights in the Commission Work Programme 2015 is the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), a process which has been 'underway' for several decades but never completed. Aside from first-generation civil liberties, which are enshrined in the ECHR, second-generation social and economic rights, such as the right to work with fair remuneration, the right to protection of health, the right to social security, etc., are also an essential component of fundamental rights in general and are provided for under the European Social Charter. It is these very social and economic rights that are currently at risk of being sacrificed on the altar of financial 'stability', austerity, 'structural reforms', etc. This is the main reason why more and more citizens feel alienated from the EU and its policies.

1. Is the Commission aware of the dangers to social rights which are inherent to the economic policies currently being implemented?
2. Would the Commission consider proposing the EU's accession to the European Social Charter?