

Question for written answer E-000105/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Recognition by Norway of pension rights of EU workers under the Norwegian flag prior to 1994

Norway is still failing to recognise the social rights of EU workers regularly working on vessels flying the Norwegian flag, prior to 1994.

This issue has been the subject of numerous parliamentary initiatives in recent years, both questions to the Commission and to the Council (E-1587/2008, E-1588/2008 or E-009577/2011) and petitions to the European Parliament (475/2010 and 1326/2010).

Although the Commission has indicated that it favours the signing of bilateral agreements and the Committee on Petitions has expressly requested its intervention as mediator, we must note the lack of progress in relation to this matter and the prolonged lack of protection of those affected, who last December demonstrated in front of the Norwegian Embassy in Spain and were offered a meeting with the Spanish Ministry of Employment on 15 January.

Could the Council indicate the latest developments with regard to this matter and state what new initiatives it has taken or intends to take in order to encourage bilateral agreements between the affected Member States, which the Council supports, and implement the position expressed by the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament?