

**Question for written answer E-001478/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

**Subject:** Limiting the adverse effects of strike action by the employees of entities providing universal public services

The right of association within a trade union, including the right to strike, is fundamental in modern democratic countries. This does not mean, however, that citizens' rights and freedoms – as enshrined, for example, in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or in the constitutions of Member States – are absolute, and neither can they be limitless.

For instance, it is difficult to accept a situation in which the citizens of EU Member States are not given sufficient notice of planned strike action on the part of the employees of entities providing universal public services. This is a particular problem as regards healthcare services, local, national and international public transport, postal services, education, energy firms, and firms providing water to households.

A minimum solution to this problem would be to oblige strike organisers to provide the public with reliable information on planned strike action – including when it is due to start and end – to give people a chance to make the necessary preparations and protect themselves against any adverse effects.

In the light of the above, what steps is the Commission intending to take to guarantee that people naturally have the right to strike, but also that the interests of the users of universal public services are protected at the same time?