

**Question for written answer E-009256/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Situation concerning the fundamental rights of EPO employees

The administrative council of the European Patent Office (EPO) introduced a new quality and efficiency strategy in 2010, aimed at improving quality and lowering costs. Most of the measures put in place under this new strategy do not appear to respect the fundamental rights of employees under the European Union Charter. The case was taken to the Dutch courts, which ruled that the EPO was violating the right of collective bargaining, the right to strike and the right to freedom of expression and information. Staff at the EPO have also spoken out on a number of occasions against the repressive, authoritarian system of management that has been introduced there, which is being used as a way to drastically restrict their rights.

Is the Commission aware of the situation concerning the rights of those employed by this international organisation, which has its headquarters within EU territory?

Has it undertaken, or is it considering undertaking, any kind of investigation into whether the EPO has violated Articles 11, 12 and 28 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights?