

**Question for written answer E-014969/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Infringement workers' rights in El Corte Inglés, Portugal

The Union of Office, Commerce and Services Workers(CESP) has accused *El Corte Inglés*, a department store chain in Portugal, of forcing employees to accept constant changes to their schedule of working hours and rest periods, often with as little as one day's notice, and of failing to comply with the mandatory rest period of 11 hours between daily shifts. The Union has accordingly been calling for measures to resolve the problems of shift rotation, with a view to ending repeated six-day working cycles, a practice being followed by *El Corte Inglés*, which is obviously a serious infringement of workers' rights, including their right to work/life balance and in respect of health and safety at work. At the same time, these are rights that the EU is claiming to uphold, for example in its Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of similar practices by this company in other EU Member States?
2. Has the company received EU funding or assistance in Portugal or elsewhere?