

**Question for written answer E-015125/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Legitimacy of European trade unions

Cooperation between the EU institutions and trade unions, or 'European social dialogue', is portrayed as being essential if the public is to regain its confidence in the European Union. Representatives of EU trade unions and employers' organisations meet the presidents of the European Council and the Commission at twice-yearly Tripartite Social Summits.

At the same time social dialogue has ceased to exist in countries such as Greece or Spain since the 2007 crisis, and is losing momentum in most Member States.

The European trade unions invited to the Tripartite Social Summit are the ETUC, the CEEP, BusinessEurope and the UEAPME. Certain misgivings are inevitable when one considers the all too obvious consensus that characterises these meetings. These structures do not have any financial independence and act in response to Commission initiatives.

1. What sort of legitimacy can be accorded to their spokespersons?
2. How could these bodies have any other aim than to defend the interests of the European Union and none other?