

**Question for written answer E-000992/2016/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)**

Subject: Restricting the right of air traffic controllers to go on strike

The Ryanair CEO, speaking on behalf of 'Airlines for Europe' encompassing the largest European airlines, recently announced, 'We want to eliminate air traffic controller strikes.'

Efforts to limit the right to strike have been prompted by the mobilisation of thousands of company staff members against moves to erode their entitlements in terms of pay, conditions and benefits.

This monopolistic offensive against workers' rights in general, and in the air transport sector in particular, is an integral part of a drive to increase corporate profits and boost competitiveness, while giving passengers a raw deal in terms of fares, safety standards, etc.

The Commission itself has declared competitiveness to be a priority under the 'Single European Sky' strategy.

The European Union is thus openly taking the lead in efforts to limit the right to strike (Monti proposal regarding amendments to trade union law limiting the right to strike under the third Memorandum signed by Greece and the Quartet, which includes the Commission), while a similar line of conduct is being adopted by countries such as the UK, Belgium, etc.

In view of this:

What is the Commission's position regarding the above large-scale offensive against the right to take industrial action, having signed up, together with Greece, for amendments to trade union law limiting the right to strike, as a prerequisite for the third Memorandum?