

**Question for written answer E-001060/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ryanair threat to trade union rights

According to recent press reports, a few days ago Ryanair called on the Commission to take action to prevent flights from being delayed or cancelled in Europe owing to constant strikes by air traffic controllers (ATC). It even argued that unions should lose the right to strike.

Ryanair has also launched an online petition ('Keep Europe's Skies Open') in which it invites consumers 'to protect Europe from repeated blackmail and disruption by Air Traffic Control unions' in the face of strikes that 'close the skies over Europe' and 'result in thousands of flights being cancelled'. The petition once again suggests that ATC unions should no longer have the right to strike, citing the example of countries where workers' concerns are addressed 'through mediation or binding arbitration, that do not involve strikes'.

Can the Commission confirm that it has been approached by Ryanair? What comments does it have on these appeals against the most elementary workers' rights? How will it respond to this multinational that is seeking to sweep away a whole set of rights that have been won over the centuries and that still characterise our continent?