

Question for written answer E-003581/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Situation of workers in Argentina

On 29 April 2016, political movements and trade unions are set to stage a protest in Buenos Aires against the anti-worker policies and decisions of the Macri government. It is the first joint protest by Argentina's five trade union associations, and will also be attended by other political parties and groups with a range of social grievances.

The demonstrators are protesting the rise in unemployment – more than 100 000 workers lost their jobs in the first quarter of 2016 – and report that many of the layoffs were politically motivated. They are also marching against rising inflation and the general economic policies of the Macri government, which have affected workers' spending power and family incomes, and are calling for pension increases, income tax reforms, and protection for the rights of workers in the informal sector and in cooperatives.

It is a situation in which human and workers' rights are being threatened. In view of that, I have the following questions for the Commission.

Is the EU Delegation to Argentina monitoring the rising social unrest in the country? Is it planning to discuss the issue of properly safeguarding workers' rights with the Argentinian Government?