

**Question for written answer E-006755/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Collective labour agreements and new attack on labour rights

In provocative fashion, the Syriza-ANEL government is celebrating the increase in jobs for the period January to July 2016, concealing the painful reality for workers: 51.2 % of new jobs were part-time or irregular work, with wages of less than EUR 400.

Within the framework of the second assessment, the government and the EU are planning a new blow to labour rights, with the definitive and wholesale abolition of collective labour agreements and collective bargaining, the adoption of so-called 'best practice', i.e. the ratcheting up of profits made by capital, and drastic restrictions on the right to strike. This relates to demands by capital which had been proclaimed even before the crisis. These have been incorporated and adopted everywhere, with the aim of increasing the profits made by capital at the expense of workers'/people's rights.

In its answer to a previous question, the Commission stated very clearly that it does not recognise permanent and stable work as a right (question E-012949/2015).

What is more, Commissioner Thyssen has recently stated that 'strikes can be a sign of the failure of the collective bargaining system'.

What is the Commission's position on the undisputed fact that all the above bears witness to how the EU and governments are working towards complete abolition of collective labour agreements, the rolling out of flexible working and attacks on the repeatedly diminished labour and insurance rights of workers, including the right to strike?