

**Question for written answer E-007977/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: New blow to collective labour agreements (CLAs)

The report of the Committee of Experts, based on the assessment of the 3rd Memorandum signed by the SYRIZA-ANEL government, respecting its commitment that 'changes to working conditions does not mean a return to pre-memorandum conditions', and ruling out the recovery of slashed wages, recommends connecting those wages to productivity, a permanent means of shrinking payments for the benefit of business competitiveness.

Despite government propaganda, the Committee further undermines collective labour agreements, by:

- imposing a minimum wage (with no maturity, marriage benefits, etc.) within a tight range established by 'experts' and driven by business profitability;
 - questioning the workers' right to unilateral recourse to arbitration;
 - wages below minimum for employees with no work experience (around 1.5 million unemployed people) to further worsen working conditions by establishing very low fixed wages for the benefit of business profitability.
1. What is the Commission's position on the report's recommendations which cite '*acquis communautaire* and EU best practices', given the EU priority (see the Five Presidents' Report) of connecting wages to business profitability?
 2. Where does the Commission stand on the fact that this report actually annuls CLAs by providing the opportunity to sign company-to-individual agreements and lifting the supersedence of the most favourable agreement for employees, on the basis of the experts' recommendations and following the principle of making business competitive?