

**Question for written answer E-000252/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU-Republic of Korea free trade agreement and labour rights violations

During the fourth meeting of the EU-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement Trade and Sustainable Development Committee held in September 2015, the EU called on Korea to make efforts to 'speed up the ratification of fundamental ILO conventions'.

Despite this, however, not only has Korea as yet failed to ratify core conventions 29 and 105 on forced labour and 87 and 98 on freedom of association, but the situation with regard to Korean trade unionists has not improved at all. Following the demonstrations of November 2015, Han Sang-gyun, leader of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, was sent to prison in July 2016. Furthermore, there have been reports of persistent persecution of trade unions at companies including Samsung, LG and Hyundai.

1. With regard to the detention of trade unionists in Korea, what steps is the Commission going to take to ensure compliance with Article 13(4)(3) on 'freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining'?
2. In the event of repeated violations of workers' rights, would the Commission consider repealing the agreement?