

**Question for written answer E-000375/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Kazakhstan

Workers must overcome significant legal and practical obstacles when it comes to organising in Kazakhstan. Legislative changes in recent years have made it more difficult for workers to form unions freely and to engage in collective bargaining, and have made leading or participating in illegal strikes criminal offences. Outspoken trade union leaders and labour activists face harassment, surveillance, and in some cases dismissal because of their activism.

The Government of Kazakhstan should amend its trade union and labour laws, while companies operating in Kazakhstan should ensure that employees do not face retaliation or harassment for their trade union activism. Failure to do so is incompatible with applicable international standards, violates constitutional norms in Kazakhstan and denies workers the ability to organise to protect their interests at this especially critical juncture of economic downturn.

In the context of the EU's Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, is the VP/HR going to encourage the Government of Kazakhstan to implement the ILO's recommendations to amend the Trade Union Law and to foster a better environment for trade union activism?