

**Question for written answer E-001671/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Attempt by the SYRIZA-ANEL Government to repeal the Law on Arduous and Unhealthy Occupations

The Law on Arduous and Unhealthy Occupations ensures, as a minimum protection for workers employed in arduous and unhealthy occupations, that jobs require half as many working hours a week compared with other occupations and less working time in general, including lower retirement ages, and an allowance for those in arduous and unhealthy jobs, among other advantages.

The long-lasting attempt to repeal the Law on Arduous and Unhealthy Occupations by the previous PASOK-Nea Demokratia Governments is now being repeated by the SYRIZA-ANEL government, with a view to repealing these rights in order to comply with the EU guidelines on the so-called competitiveness of enterprises. The attack on the labour rights of the sectors and occupations involving arduous and unhealthy work is being carried out in conditions of increased wealth and productivity of work, and of scientific technological achievements, which require the arduous and unhealthy occupation protections to be extended and substantial measures to safeguard the health and safety of workers to be introduced.

In all official texts, the Greek Government states that, from 1 January 2018, the above framework to protect arduous and unhealthy occupations will be harmonised with the 'European legal framework'.

In view of this:

- What is the Commission's position, based on the 'European legal framework' for that particular category of workers, on the right and need not only to prevent the protections from being removed but rather to widen the concept of arduous and unhealthy occupations?