

**Question for written answer E-002000/2017
to the Council**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: The Posting of Workers Directive and serious violations of workers' rights: the Rive Gauche case

A major shopping centre has recently opened in Charleroi. Although this provides a major boost to the economic regeneration of the city and of the region, the construction project has also been implicated in cases of unacceptable social practices relating to the posting of workers. We cannot turn a blind eye to these, since they violate the fundamental rights of posted workers.

No aspect of wage policy was respected by the sub-contractors. An Italian company was paying its workers – with significant delays – EUR 10.5 per hour; however, the hourly wage in the Belgian construction sector is EUR 13.5. Furthermore, no ancillary benefits were provided.

The working hours were extremely long, and the working conditions were very difficult.

Worst of all, three serious accidents took place on the construction site, including one involving a worker 'recruited' by an Italian company whose residential status was irregular.

Belgian trade unions are preparing to take the main contractor to court. However, such appalling conditions cannot be allowed to persist in the EU.

Will the Council take into account these major and repeated violations of workers' rights when it adopts a position on the proposal to amend the Posting of Workers Directive?