

**Question for written answer E-002333/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Javi López (S&D), Renate Weber (ALDE) and Terry Reintke (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Social rights for police officers across Europe

Police officers provide an extraordinary and irreplaceable public service for society every single day. The importance of their work has merited special attention in the form of provisions on working and living conditions and social rights, not just in national legal systems, but also at EU level, such as those enshrined in Article 2 of Directive 89/391/EEC or Article 17(3) of Directive 203/88/EC. Police officers are concerned, however, about the high numbers of work-related illnesses in the profession, the divergence and arbitrariness of criteria between Member States in the implementation of these directives, and the total or partial lack of enforcement of certain social rights in some national police bodies.

Does the Commission think that the ban on exercising certain social rights in European police forces such as the Guardia Civil in Spain, the Gendarmerie in France, the Guarda Nacional Republicana in Portugal, or the Carabinieri in Italy, is compatible with the European Social Charter and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (Articles 12 and 27-31)?

Does the Commission envisage taking any steps to ensure upward convergence in the enforcement of fundamental social rights, such as unionisation or collective bargaining, for police bodies and officers across Europe?