

**Question for written answer E-000322/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Upholding workers' rights during Brexit negotiations

Upholding the rights of European and British workers must be a key objective and a cornerstone of negotiations between the EU and the UK.

In order to achieve this, NGOs and other organisations defending such rights must be given a say in the formal proceedings.

However, seven out of ten meetings (72.35% to be precise) of the task force led by Michel Barnier (chief EU Brexit negotiator) from October 2016 to October 2017 were with large companies or bodies representing their interests! 9.65% of the meetings were with NGOs, 1.93% with public authorities, 4.18 % with professional bodies and 10.93% with think tanks or academic bodies¹!

This stands in complete contradiction to President Juncker's official policy of transparency and equal representation for all organised bodies or interest groups².

In view of this:

- Can the Commission say how workers' rights can be properly upheld if their representatives are absent or if worker interests are under-represented in the course of these negotiations?
- Can it say why large corporations and trade associations representing big business interests are being given far greater access to Michel Barnier's negotiating team and much greater influence than any other?

¹ <https://corporateeurope.org/power-lobbies/2017/12/big-business-brexit-corporate-interests-still-dominate-brexit-and-trade>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2014/EN/3-2014-9004-EN-F1-1.Pdf>