

**Question for written answer E-005148/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject:     Worrying conditions for banana workers in Ecuador

Bananas are Ecuador's main exports to the EU, accounting for almost 30% of the country's total exports to the Union.

In August 2018 Ecuador's trade union for agricultural, banana and farm workers brought an appeal against the alleged unconstitutionality of three ministerial agreements governing industrial relations in the farming and banana sectors.

It complained that the right to a minimum wage, to the freedom of association to a trade union, to collective bargaining and to a fair remuneration were being violated in the banana sector.

The agreements directly favour large companies to the detriment of banana workers.

A basic salary is a form of protection for workers, and stripping them of it is in breach of Article 277 of Title XIX of the EU-Ecuador Trade Agreement on labour issues.

The agreement is not being fully complied with and, while the EU is imposing bans, it is not placing any sanctions on Ecuador.

- 1)       Is the Commission aware that banana workers are being exploited?
- 2)       What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to address these failures so that Ecuador may fulfil Article 277 of the EU-Ecuador Trade Agreement?