

**Question for written answer E-006303/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Persecution of protesters and increasing authoritarianism in Hungary

The new labour law introduced by the Hungarian Government has triggered numerous workers' protests. Media outlets linked to or controlled by the government have published pictures of the protestors, asking readers to identify them and report them to the police.

On 12 December 2018, the government adopted a law that dismantles the Supreme Court and creates courts presided directly by the Minister for Justice, who has the power to appoint judges and oversee the courts' budgets. In the same month, government harassment forced the closure of a university funded by George Soros.

The Hungarian Government has responded to Parliament's resolution of September 2018 – which warned of an erosion of the freedom of expression, academic freedom, independence of the judiciary and economic rights – by strengthening its authoritarian position.

In the light of this situation, which constitutes a fresh breach of the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and given Parliament's recommendation to take action under Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union:

1. Does the Commission believe that the state of affairs in Hungary constitutes a breach of the Treaties?
2. Will it take steps against the Hungarian Government's increasing authoritarianism, following Parliament's request for it to take action under Article 7 of the TEU?