

**Question for written answer E-000213/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

**Subject:** Commission attempt to prevent Switzerland from applying national preference to employment

Since 22 May 2014 Switzerland and the EU have been negotiating an institutional framework agreement. On 7 December 2018 the Swiss Federal Council decided to hold a consultation on the outcome of the negotiations. To quote an Agence Europe article of 8 October 2018, ‘the time is trickier for protection measures on the Swiss labour market, which are veritable red lines for the country, but of which the European Commission challenges the validity, finding them often too burdensome and discriminatory for European workers wishing to work in Switzerland’.

The Swiss authorities say that the European technocrats have in the end recognised the need for measures to safeguard the level of wage protection in Switzerland<sup>1</sup>.

Brussels, then, has apparently agreed to let Switzerland take self-evidently logical steps, but is denying that possibility to France and other high-wage EU countries at the expense of our jobs: road cabotage will be prohibited; posting of workers will be limited to 90 days, instead of 18 months, and the Swiss authorities will be able to ask for a guarantee and for four days’ notice before carrying out inspections<sup>2</sup>.

Why has the Commission resorted to blackmail regarding the national preference as applied to employment in Switzerland and done so despite recognising that this form of preference safeguards the level of wage protection?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dfae.admin.ch/dam/dea/fr/documents/abkommen/InstA-Wichtigste-in-Kuerze\\_fr.pdf](https://www.dfae.admin.ch/dam/dea/fr/documents/abkommen/InstA-Wichtigste-in-Kuerze_fr.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/dea/fr/documents/abkommen/Acccord-inst-Projet-de-texte\\_fr.pdf](https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/dea/fr/documents/abkommen/Acccord-inst-Projet-de-texte_fr.pdf). Service providers which have failed to fulfil their financial obligations to implementing bodies when previously providing a service shall be required to furnish a financial guarantee before providing services again. For independent service providers or those posting workers on Swiss territory, the Swiss authorities may give such notice as might be necessary, but not exceeding four working days, in order to carry out factual workplace checks in sectors to be determined on the basis of objective risk analysis, which shall be revised and updated at periodic intervals.