

**Question for written answer P-001649/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Strike by Birleşik Metal-İş union workers in Turkey

A historic strike in the metal sector has been called following a breakdown in negotiations between the Birleşik Metal-İş union (affiliated to the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK)) and the Turkish Metal Employers' Federation (MESS) over an attempt by MESS to impose a three-year collective bargaining agreement which would do nothing to improve conditions for newer workers or those on lower wages.

Around 15 000 workers in 42 companies, including several multinationals, are on strike as of 29 January 2015.

Birleşik Metal-İş members are struggling to improve their working conditions and wages, particularly their demands for a general wage increase for low-paid workers.

On 30 January, the Turkish Government took the decision to postpone the strike for 60 days, claiming that it jeopardised national security. If an agreement is not reached before the expiry date, the High Board of Arbitration will settle the dispute upon the application of either party within six working days. Otherwise, the competence of the workers' trade union will be void. This means that the 'postponement' is actually a 'ban' in real terms.

How will the Commission ensure that Turkey, as both a candidate country and an International Labour Organisation member, respects workers' right to strike and all other workers' rights?