

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3484/03
by Bartho Pronk (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Follow-up to Written Question E-2055/03 on the Latvian Police Law prohibiting police officers from forming trade unions

In response to my Written Question E-2055/03¹ on trade union rights for police officers in Latvia, the Commission states that certain articles of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention allow for such restrictions.

1. Is this not an incomplete response given that it does not indicate in which ILO Conventions the exceptions appear and on which articles they are based?
2. Can the Commission confirm that, according to the established interpretation of the Committee of Experts, Convention 87 does not contain an exception that would, for example, exclude Latvian police officers from the freedom to form trade unions?
3. If not, what is the basis for the Commission's interpretation that Convention 87 does contain an exception?
4. Can the Commission now urge the Latvian authorities more strongly to lift this ban on forming trade unions so that Latvia respects fundamental trade union rights in full?

¹ OJC