

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2712/09  
by Konrad Szymański (UEN)  
to the Commission

Subject: Drivers from Kąty Wrocławskie beaten by security guards in the Netherlands

On 31 March 2009 security guards hired by the owners of Schavemaker Poland Sp.z o.o., a Dutch transport firm operating in Poland, brutally beat nine Polish drivers demonstrating at the firm's offices in Breda Hazeldong. A second such attack took place on the same day. Some drivers were beaten so badly that they lost consciousness. All their mobile phones were confiscated.

These incidents occurred in connection with strike action taken by Schavemaker Poland employees in response to further job losses among the workforce, which is calling for the reinstatement of travel allowances.

As part of the strike action, the drivers organised Sunday demonstrations in various parts of Europe, including at the firm's Dutch base.

The protest was conducted in accordance with the law and was organised by the 'Solidarność' trade union federation, which has been operating at the firm since February 2009.

The action taken by the Dutch firm is in breach of European labour and trade union law.

Will the Commission be taking steps to shed light on the above incidents?