

**Question for written answer E-009460/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Kristiina Ojuland (ALDE)

Subject: Workers' rights in Gilgit-Baltistan

'On Friday, 23 April 2011 nearly 2000 protestors gathered in front of the main offices of the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) in Gilgit demanding payment of their salaries. Building and Road Department (B&R) employees also joined them in their protests and chanted slogans against the government'.

The above news item was published in *The Express Tribune* newspaper on 24 April 2011¹. The workers subsequently decided to strike, as they had not been paid for the previous six months.

1. Is the Commission aware of the current situation in Gilgit-Baltistan?
2. Does the Commission believe it can help restore the rights of the people of Gilgit- Baltistan through the work of the many Pakistani NGOs it supports?

¹ The Express Tribune, 24 April 2011, <http://tribune.com.pk/story/155421/unpaid-wasa-workers-go-on-strike/>.