

**Question for written answer E-010617/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE) and Rui Tavares (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Troika violation of collective bargaining and social dialogue

The ILO Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) has examined a complaint concerning a variety of austerity measures taken in Greece over the past two years in the framework of the international loan mechanism agreed upon with the Troika (the Commission, the ECB and IMF). The complaint was submitted by the Greek General Confederation of Labour, Civil Servants' Confederation, General Federation of Employees of the National Electric Power Corporation, and Federation of Private Employees, and is supported by the International Trade Union Confederation. The CFA is a Governing Body committee, and is composed of an independent chairperson and six representatives each of governments, employers, and workers.

The Committee found that the austerity measures involved a number of repeated and extensive interventions into free and voluntary collective bargaining and an important deficit of social dialogue. The Troika's recommendations interfere in matters concerning the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining which are fundamental to the very basis of democracy and social peace.

Freedom of association and collective bargaining are among the founding principles of the ILO. Greece has ratified ILO conventions 87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise) and 98 (Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining). The other EU 26 Member States have also ratified these conventions.

Collective bargaining and social dialogue are recognised by the EU in Article 28 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('Right of Collective Bargaining and Action') and in Article 12 of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers of 1989.

1. Is the Commission aware of the opinion of the ILO's CFA ?
2. How will the Commission react?
3. What is the Commission position inside the Troika on collective bargaining and social dialogue?
4. Do the Troika's recommendations violate Article 28 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU's principle of subsidiarity?
5. Will the Commission withdraw its support for these recommendations and protect collective bargaining and social dialogue in the bail-out countries?