

**Question for written answer E-007856/2013  
to the Council**

Rule 117

**Evelyn Regner (S&D) and Jutta Steinruck (S&D)**

Subject: Proposal for a European Year of the Worker in the European Union

Each year, the Commission proposes a 'European Year' for an important social issue, on which the Council subsequently votes. Workers play an extremely important role in ensuring that the European Union, and in particular the European Economic Area, work effectively. Thus, it is high time for the European Union to signal greater recognition for workers by designating a year in their honour. We have already had a 'European Year of Workers' Mobility', in 2006. Nonetheless, greater recognition should be given to work, particularly in view of the high unemployment that is currently the greatest problem facing Europe. It is very important to create good, secure jobs. It is for this reason that I propose planning a 'Year of the Worker in the European Union' or a 'Year of Health and Safety for Workers in the European Union'.

1. What is the view of the Council, and in particular the Lithuanian Presidency, on this proposal?
2. Would the EU consider proposing a 'European Year of the Worker'?
3. Which year could be chosen?