

**Question for written answer E-000814/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Terrifying upsurge in unpaid work in Greece

Unpaid work is taking place in Greece on a massive scale. According to data published by the control authorities and the Institute of Labour of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (INE-GSEE), approximately 1.2 million employees – one third of the economically active population – have not been paid for between three and fifteen months.

This type of unofficial slavery is recorded in sectors such as cleaning, retail, shipping, the press, the political parties, and even tourism, despite the record numbers of arrivals and subsidisation of jobs. It also occurs in the State sector, where workers perform contract work, undertake charity work and are covered by a voucher system and other programmes financed by the NSRF or the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED) but are paid only after a delay of several months after the end of the grant.

This phenomenon is fostered by a number of developments: the soaring unemployment, the weakening of the supervisory authorities, the deregulation of labour relations, the financial stranglehold on businesses because of unpaid State debts of EUR 4.5 bn., high taxation and fact that the banks which have been recapitalised with taxpayers' money are not extending any credit. Directive 2011/7 / EU on combating late payment, however, requires payment within 30 – or, in exceptional cases, 60 – calendar days, precisely in order to protect small and medium-sized businesses and the jobs they provide.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

As a member of the Troika, does it check the extent of unpaid work, as it checks other financial and economic data?

What steps will it suggest that the Greek authorities take to combat this unacceptable phenomenon?