

**Question for written answer E-004442/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR)

Subject: Forced labour in Belarus

The ban on forced labour has been incorporated into both the Constitution of Belarus and Belarusian law. However, experience shows that those rules are defunct. University graduates who studied free of charge, for example, are forced to work: after they graduate they are referred by authorities to a specific place of work. They have to work there for two years; if they do not complete the full period, universities are entitled to institute proceedings against them and demand compensation.

The obligation to work shows blatant disregard for an internationally recognised right to choose a place of work and it seriously limits young Belarusians' chances to study in EU Member States. What actions is the Commission taking to encourage Belarusian authorities to refrain from enforcing that obligation?