**Question for written answer E-004450/2018**

**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Social dimension of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) / Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)

Georgia has made significant progress towards EU integration by signing an Association Agreement (AA) including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and obtaining visa-free travel for its citizens in recent years. Although the Association Agreement contains provisions on the social dimension and some progress is being made, their implementation is lagging behind.

The rate of fatal occupational injuries in Georgia is three times higher than the EU average and there is an unsatisfactory level of minimum standards in workplace health and safety. Furthermore, obstacles to trade union representation remain. There is an urgent need for action from both the EU and Georgia on social matters. In this regard, answers to the following questions are requested:

1. How does the VP/HR view the implementation of the social provisions of the DCFTA and the AA with Georgia?

2. Does the VP/HR see a need to establish a formal monitoring mechanism to assess the implementation of the AA, and if so, have any steps been taken in this direction?

3. Does the VP/HR consider that establishing a Committee on Social Affairs under the AA alongside the existing Trade Committee and creating the position of a Labour Attaché on the EU Delegation to Georgia could help improve the situation described above?