

**Question for written answer E-005900/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Imprisonment of a cleaner in Volos

An impoverished 53-year-old cleaner, who had been working in a nursery in Volos (central Greece) for 20 years, was sentenced to ten years in prison because, at the time of her recruitment in 1996, she stated that she had completed six years of primary education when in fact she had completed only five. Her struggle to survive was classed as a 'felony' and she was accused of 'embezzling' 20-years' worth of wages from the State, to the tune of EUR 100 000.

The cleaner did not steal any money. She worked hard and was paid a pittance. She was desperate to support her two young children and to help her husband, who is 67% disabled.

It is outrageous that the State and the judiciary have brought the full force of the law down on the cleaner, while other political and economic cases that have resulted in huge losses for the State to the tune of billions of euro, whether appropriated legally or illegally, are left unresolved.

The reactionary policies adopted by successive Greek governments, including the present one, clearly belie the lip service paid by the bourgeoisie and the EU to the 'rule of law and equality before the law'.

Given that, in many instances, the Commission seeks to overturn judgements with which it does not agree, not only in Member States but also in third countries, it cannot now invoke non-interference in legal process.

Can the Commission say:

Where does it stand in relation to the calls for the cleaner to be released immediately and for her to be able to return to her family and to work?