

Question for written answer E-006148/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Chinese workers detained for attempting to create a trade union

In July, Chinese nationals and factory workers, Li Zhan, Mi Jiuping, Yu Juncong and Fu Changguo, were detained by their country's authorities for trying to set up a trade union. Such arrests are a violation of their freedom of assembly and association as well as their right to unionisation. Since this date, the four men have been uncontactable. Their families have been unable to visit them and they have very limited access to their lawyers. These circumstances raise serious concerns for their wellbeing and doubts around the possibility of them being given a fair trial. As well as the various ILO conventions on labour rights that China has ratified, the People's Republic of China Union Law, passed in 1992, enshrines Chinese workers with the right to create trade union organisations freely. Therefore, how does the EU intend to influence China to guarantee the families and lawyers of these four people access and an impartial trial? Furthermore, how does it intend to put pressure on this country to respect human rights, workers' rights and the rule of law within the context of dialogue set out in the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation?