

**Question for written answer E-000201/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sophie Montel (NI)

Subject: The future of volunteer firefighters

In a judgment¹, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that a volunteer firefighter had to be regarded as a worker within the meaning of Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time. Accordingly, on-call hours at home must be regarded as hours worked.

That decision has serious consequences for fire services and demonstrates that the principle of volunteering runs counter to the market dogma that the European Union is attempting to introduce into all areas of everyday life.

Does the Commission intend exempting casual volunteers from that EU directive?

¹ Judgment of 26 March 2015, *Ville de Nivelles v Rudy Matzak*, C-518/15, ECLI:EU:C:2018:82.