

**Question for written answer E-001724/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Suppression of industrial action condemned

The Phthiotis branch of the Greek Civil Servants' Confederation (ADEDY) is accusing the Board of Secondary Education (DDE) in Euboea of committing acts that restrict the free exercise of industrial action.

More specifically, DDE Euboea is conducting an administrative investigation under oath against a trade unionist teacher for 'maliciously criticising the acts of senior officials', thereby undermining the educational movement's rights to free expression and industrial action.

Given that:

- trade union freedoms are protected by both the Greek Constitution (Article 23) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 12);
- both public and private-sector employees, after eight years of austerity policies and neoliberal deregulation, have no other way of defending their labour rights apart from organised class and industrial action, and;
- similar injustices have already affected trade unionists in the education sector,

will the Commission say:

- (1) How can the Greek authorities claim to be defending trade union freedoms when they are in fact unacceptably criminalising industrial action?
- (2) Can it identify any other EU countries where state authorities are adopting similar strategies to restrict and silence industrial action in the public sector?