

**Question for written answer E-001725/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Unacceptable blackmail of a female worker in Greece

A key requirement of the three memoranda programmes that Greece had to enact was the implementation of reforms to deregulate labour. For example, over a period of eight years flexible working arrangements have become more prevalent, salaries have decreased, an age-based pay scale has been introduced, dismissals have been made easier and collective bargaining has been all but abolished.

All of these measures were designed and put in place by lenders and successive Greek governments, who applied so-called 'European best practices' in order to 'balance flexibility and fairness for employees and employers' and achieve 'sustainable and inclusive growth'¹.

The reality of the Greek labour market, however, is dire. Only yesterday, an employee working for a well-known fashion chain² reported that her employer locked her inside a room in her branch for 45 minutes to make her resign from her post voluntarily – just so that he could avoid laying her off.³

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission satisfied with the current state of employment relations in the Greek labour market after eight years of memorandum policies?
2. Does it believe that blackmailing workers and 'mafia' methods constitute European best practices?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/01_mou_20150811_en1.pdf

² Bershka Hellas, subsidiary of the multinational company Inditex.

³ <https://www.cnn.gr/news/ellada/story/172131/kataggelia-ergazomenis-gia-paranomi-kratysi-apo-gnostikalysida-endysis>