

**Question for written answer E-000081/2020/rev.1
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: Exploitation of construction workers working on the new Council building

The Belgian newspaper De Standaard published an article about the construction of the new Council building, which revealed that undocumented workers from various countries have been exploited. They were put to work without contracts and being covered by social security, presumably to avoid liability claims that may arise from potential accidents. What is more, many of these workers have not even been paid what was promised to them.

1. Is the main contractor responsible and liable for the whole chain of subcontractors with which it cooperates during a construction project under EU public procurement policy? If not, is the Council willing to include this responsibility and liability in EU policy for all future tenders?
2. Is the Council willing to conduct research to identify those who have been working undocumented and without contracts during the construction of the new Council building, and will it work with the Belgian authorities to identify those eligible for compensation of unpaid salaries and social security premiums?
3. Would the Council support a legislative proposal for an obligatory identification system – a European Construction Site Identity Card – for all people working on construction sites in order to improve the safety of all workers and to better enforce workers' rights?

Supporters¹

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