

**Question for written answer E-002172/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Attack on labour rights in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic

Since the beginning of the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of people in the Member States have lost their jobs - in Greece alone more than 100 000 lost their jobs in March. The following measures are being imposed: dismissals, the suspension of collective and individual employment contracts, 'partial unemployment', shift work, a reduction in working time with reduced wages, compulsory unpaid leave or the obligation to take annual leave and compulsory teleworking. This has been accompanied by a huge increase in the surveillance of workers by employers, even in their homes. Employees do not get the special leave they are entitled to if they become ill, increasing the number of people coming together in the workplace.

With the SURE programme, the EU is promoting generalised forms of flexible working and part-time employment for workers, which will become permanent after the end of the pandemic.

How does the Commission view demands for:

1. The cancellation of dismissals of employees, including employees with fixed-term or work-on-demand contracts and all the negative changes in contracts made during the pandemic?
2. Full guarantees of employment, wage and insurance rights for those who are made to take compulsory leave or have reduced working hours, and of income for the unemployed who are not entitled to unemployment benefits?
3. Exemption from electricity, telecommunications, water and gas charges and no cutting off of electricity, telecommunications or water, or suspension of protection for primary residences, rent subsidies and bans on evictions?