

**Question for written answer E-002638/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Christine Anderson (ID)

Subject: The EESC's failure in its duty of care regarding harassment

Following multiple media reports in 2019, victims of psychological harassment within the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) came forward and have been identified by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in an intensive investigation. OLAF forwarded the report in January 2020 to the EESC's President and to the Belgian judicial authorities, reflecting OLAF's concerns that the harassment is of a sufficiently serious nature to constitute a criminal offence under Belgian law. The allegations concern psychological harassment against EU staff and EESC members. The member concerned was accused of similar harassment in 2015. The EESC administration has failed to act to protect staff and members. Despite having a Code of Conduct in place, no action has been undertaken by the Committee to remove the member.

Under Directive 89/391/EEC on safety and health at work, all staff in EU institutions must be free from harassment in the workplace.

In this context, can the Commission explain:

1. What procedures are in place to protect the staff of the Commission when the institution's administration has failed in its duty of care?
2. Has the Commission reviewed the OLAF report which has been sent to the Belgian judicial authorities?
3. Has the Commission consulted the EESC about OLAF's recommendations?