

**Question for written answer E-005417/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: New measures undermining the labour and union rights of seafarers

The New Democracy Government has now come up with a legislative monstrosity delivering the final thrust at the labour and union rights of seafarers at the behest of Greek shipowners who, since 2010, been refusing to sign collective labour agreements, while at the same time enjoying tax breaks of every kind. This new legislation basically allows them to jettison collective agreements for seafarers as a category and introduce ITF galley wages for those up to and including the rank of second mate, requiring them to put in more than 100 hours of overtime per month in order to earn just over USD 1 000. Further restrictions are being introduced on seafarers' unions, making it harder for them to engage in any form of on-board political or union activity.

The amendments adopted are in fact in line with EU policies and laws, including the provisions of the port State control Directive and the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), resulting in galley wages and sweatshop working conditions on board, seriously jeopardising the lives and safety of passengers and crew.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's position regarding the need for collective agreements to uphold the labour and welfare rights currently enjoyed by seafarers on all vessel categories?
2. What are its views regarding the need to uphold the right to unhindered trade union and political activity at all workplaces, including ships?