

Question for written answer E-005997/2020/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: The right of EU citizens to organise and enter into collective agreements

EU Member States have ratified – and thus committed to abiding by and promoting – the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the fourth main element of which is freedom of association and the right to enter into collective agreements. Unfortunately, the proportion of workers covered by a collective agreement fell from 46% in 1985 to 32% in 2017. According to the OECD, this is due partly to structural changes in the labour market and partly to employer opposition. For instance, there are indications that worker representatives are being unlawfully dismissed, that threats are being made to do away with jobs and that there is opposition to communicating with trade union advisers.

Preventing citizens from organising breaches not only the EU's core values, but also ILO conventions. This is a major problem for EU workers and the labour market, since collective agreements are the best way of ensuring good pay, better jobs and less unemployment.

1. What does the Commission itself regard as the main reasons for the declining degree of organisation and collective-agreement coverage in Europe?
2. How does the Commission intend to call for ratification of the ILO conventions so that, in particular, freedom of association and the right to enter into collective agreements are abided by?