

**Question for written answer E-004757/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Catering services in the Commission and protecting jobs

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic the EU institutions scaled back the presence of their employees at the workplace. This resulted in an almost total halt in catering services for an extended period, which placed all the contractors supplying such services in serious difficulty. With the gradual return to normality, all the EU institutions are now restoring catering services in their canteens. However, owing to the reduced footfall, not everyone employed by the contractors will be able to keep their jobs. What is more, most of the employees concerned have been working for the EU institutions for many years, as the catering contracts include a clause designed to ensure that people already employed by the institutions hold on to their jobs.

When presenting its coronavirus response strategy, the Commission stated it was crucial not only to shield vital sectors of the EU's economy but also, and above all, to protect jobs and workers.

In light of the above:

What kind of initiatives does the Commission plan to take to protect companies which have been working reliably with it for years and to safeguard the jobs of catering workers?