

**Question for written answer E-002696/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Respect for rights of migrant workers in Nea Manolada

Strawberry pickers in Ilia and Achaia, mainly migrant workers from Bangladesh and Pakistan, are being made to work under inhuman conditions, for which they are paid a pittance, and forced to live in hovels without heating, electricity or running water.

The routine exploitation of labourers working under gruelling conditions such as those prevailing in Manolada was dramatically exposed in 2008 when a murderous attack was perpetrated by landowners and their henchmen against workers demanding their backpay. To add insult to injury, the court acquitted the perpetrators. Now, in the midst of the pandemic, the labourers have not been vaccinated against even basic diseases.

They are accordingly mobilising en masse in defence of all their employment and insurance rights,

In the light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of the ruthless exploitation of thousands of labourers in Manolada and elsewhere, who are being forced to work under inhuman conditions for large landowners without insurance or welfare entitlements, while being deprived of access to vaccinations for COVID and other diseases, medical examinations, medicines, local hospital and healthcare facilities and payment of related expenses and denied long-term residence permits?
2. Are the appalling conditions of work, health and safety imposed on these labourers and the attendant food safety risks to consumers not indicative of the truly oppressive nature of EU 'farm to fork' strategies and what it claims to be farming standards?