

**Question for written answer E-002744/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Inadmissible persecution of trade unionists in Italy

Acting on the instructions of the Piacenza Public Prosecutor's Office, the Italian police raided the homes of trade unionists, making four arrests and placing eight USB and SI Cobas members under house arrest.

The Public Prosecutor's Office drew up a list of charges against dozens of workers, including the above eight, accusing them of 'criminal activities' such as strikes, picketing, and the convening of general assemblies.

The Italian authorities are now adding fuel to the flames, by describing as 'incitement to violence, resisting public officials, sabotage and disruption of public services' the worker protests and union mobilisation in logistics warehouses between 2014 and 2021. Their grievances included precarious employment and sweatshop conditions in business groups such as GLS, Amazon, FedEx-TNT, IKEA and Leroy Merlin. Three months ago, USB trade unionists revealed the activities of provocateurs at their own headquarters.

In the light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of calls for all charges against the workers to be dropped and for the release of the eight trade unionists currently under house arrest?
2. How does it regard the decision of the Italian authorities to criminalise trade union activity, thereby undermining the inalienable right of workers to strive for improved working conditions, reach decisions on the basis of internal union deliberations, organise industrial action (general assemblies, protests, strikes) in a bid to keep members informed and coordinate efforts to improve their treatment at the workplace?