

**Question for written answer E-003518/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Marc Botenga** (The Left)

Subject: Right to strike in the Single Market Emergency Instrument

On 19 September 2022, the Commission adopted its proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Single Market Emergency Instrument and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2679/98. This instrument, as the Commission explains on its website<sup>1</sup>, aims to provide a flexible and transparent mechanism for responding rapidly to emergencies and crises that threaten the functioning of the Single Market.

To this end, Article 2 of the proposal defines a crisis as ‘an exceptional unexpected and sudden, natural or man-made event of extraordinary nature and scale that takes place inside or outside of the Union’.

1. In light of the foregoing, can the Commission rule out the possibility that a strike at European or national level may be considered such a ‘crisis’ if it affects the free movement of goods or services?
2. Why has it mentioned the right to strike in a non-binding recital, rather than in an article as in the current Regulation (EC) No 2679/98?
3. Does it agree to include protection of the right to strike in the binding provisions of this legislation?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13181-Single-market-new-EU-instrument-to-guarantee-functioning-of-single-market-during-emergencies\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13181-Single-market-new-EU-instrument-to-guarantee-functioning-of-single-market-during-emergencies_en)