

**Question for written answer E-000735/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**José Gusmão** (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left)

Subject: Minimum service levels in education

The trade union movement has been losing negotiating power as a result of the drift towards neoliberalism – one of the strategies of which is cutting back organisations that represent workers – and because of workers' growing detachment from trade union struggles.

The decline in the trade union movement has been particularly notable in countries where the Troika intervened. Successive changes to employment law have left most of the working population unprotected.

Minimum service levels for strikes of an undefined duration by a single trade union end up being extended to cover all calls to strike, and the Ministry of Education gives instructions to provide those service levels, regardless of the number of strike notices. This means that schools are open whenever there are strikes, including national one-day strikes for a fixed period, such as the strikes the teachers' union FENPROF declared for 2 and 3 January 2023.

In the light of the above:

Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs? If so, what labour rights protection mechanisms does the Commission have to ensure governments uphold the right to strike?

Submitted: 3.3.2023