

ORAL QUESTION H-0761/02

for Question Time at the part-session in December 2002

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Hans Karlsson

to the Commission

Subject: Self-employed workers and posting of workers

There are rules within the European Union governing a situation in which a company's employees are assigned to work in another Member State - Directive 96/71/EC¹ on the posting of workers. The rules establish that the national terms and conditions of the country to which workers are posted are applicable. For self-employed workers operating in another Member State, there are no such provisions. People come to Sweden, for example, through international employment agencies to carry out projects in the building industry as self-employed workers. They declare that tax and social security contributions are paid in their own country, which is difficult to check in every single case. Such self-employed workers often charge a very low hourly rate. There is therefore reason to believe that at least some of them do not fulfil their obligations in their own countries. One of the consequences of this kind of arrangement is social dumping. Prices and wages are squeezed to levels which are substantially lower than they should be compared with pay and social security contributions under collective agreements.

What initiatives will the Commission take to deal with this form of social dumping?

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¹ OJ L 18, 21.1.1997, p. 1