

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2272/03  
by Pedro Marset Campos (GUE/NGL)  
to the Council

Subject: Situation of workers at the SINTEL company (Spain)

Although it is now almost two years since they accepted the government's offer and conditions (agreement of 3 August 2001) designed to facilitate the introduction of a package of measures to resolve the crisis at SINTEL with the involvement of all the parties concerned, the workers at the bankrupt SINTEL company remain as defenceless now as they were when the crisis first arose.

The workers' legal representatives have still not been invited to meet with receivers, the government or the Telefónica telecommunications company, as a party involved in the bankruptcy procedure, given that the workers are the main creditors. Without the participation of the workers it is difficult to see how the agreement can be implemented.

It has been two years since bankruptcy was declared (by order of 28 May 2001) and yet no meeting of creditors has as yet been called to appoint official receivers, thereby making it impossible for the workers to exercise their rights as creditors. Many aspects of the agreement have not been complied with and the workers' rights have not been upheld.

1. Is the Council aware of this situation?
2. Does it not believe that the Spanish Government ought to ensure compliance with the agreement reached with the workers at SINTEL?
3. Will it say what action the EU is taking with regard to the SINTEL case and the apparent failure on the part of the Spanish Government to honour the agreement?