

**Question for written answer P-000784/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Nikola Vuljanić (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Labour rights in Croatia and the EU

A new Croatian draft labour law proposes allowing workers to work up to 60 hours per week over specified periods, revoking the contracts of pregnant women, reducing notice periods and making employment more flexible. These changes favour employers at the expense of workers. This new draft law also gives preferential treatment to large shopping centres that not only exploit their employees, but also chip at away at their hard-won labour rights.

This package of laws will put Croatia at the very bottom of the table in terms of labour rights. Shopping centre employees are required to work on Sundays and do overtime, both unpaid. Stores belonging to the same chains sometimes remain open until midnight on Sundays in Croatia, while in other EU Member States they close as early as 18.00 and remain closed on Sundays.

What is the Commission's position on the issue of labour rights in Croatia? Would it not be an improvement to harmonise laws on labour rights in the Member States and to set minimum standards? We see that the inspection system is not providing the desired outcomes and must conclude that workers in other Member States are better protected than those in Croatia.