Priority question for written answer P-003182/2019 to the Commission

Rule 138 Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

Subject: CCTV camera surveillance of air traffic controllers at work

The European Union has passed stringent legislation on data protection, which is key in terms of protecting the privacy of our citizens and respecting their rights. It is of the utmost importance that such legislation is interpreted and implemented uniformly throughout the EU. Air Traffic Controllers European Union Coordination (ATCEUC), which is a recognised social partner in the air traffic management sector at European level, has contacted me.

The issue I would like to raise pertains to the installation of CCTV cameras in several Lithuanian control centres, which are increasingly being used to monitor the work of air traffic controllers for reasons of national security and the protection of civil aviation from unlawful interference. However, several incidents have demonstrated that air traffic controllers have been punished for work-related issues which did not involve violations of national security.

From an EU data protection perspective, is it legal to install CCTV cameras to monitor employees' work and to use these videos to carry out investigations into employees' conduct, efficiency, quality or errors at work?