

Question for written answer E-015564/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Csaba Molnár (S&D)

Subject: Social dialogue in Hungary

A fundamental component of the European social model is the social dialogue, whose importance is also acknowledged in the Treaties. On various occasions, the Union Institutions have stated that the social dialogue is essential for the purpose of attaining the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The European Semester likewise devotes particular attention to the strengthening of the social partners. Decision 98/500/EC on the establishment of Sectoral Dialogue Committees promoting the dialogue between the social partners at European level provides for the establishment of fora for social dialogue, and Hungary also undertook to establish them in its accession treaty. It seems that the present Hungarian Government intends to render the work of the 23 Sectoral Dialogue Committees in Hungary – which also receive support from the ESF – impossible by substantially reducing their budgets. According to reports in the press, the previous support of HUF 420 million has been reduced first to HUF 240 million, then in 2014 to 120 million, and this year to 60 million. The regime has wound up the National Employment Office, and instead of it, the Ministry of National Economic Affairs decides on a case-by-case basis on the support to be made available to the Sectoral Dialogue Committees. As a result, many technical programmes of the Sectoral Dialogue Committees have failed, and furthermore they have succeeded in gaining access to only a fraction of the support for 2015.

1. Does the Commission consider that the prevention of the operation of the Sectoral Dialogue Committees in Hungary and the dramatic cuts in their budgets accord with the relevant European law, with the undertakings given in Hungary's accession treaties and with the provisions of the TFEU?
2. Will the Commission investigate whether the funds received from the ESF were used properly to foster the social dialogue in Hungary?
3. In the light of the above, will the Commission take action if European law on Sectoral Dialogue Committees is not being complied with in Hungary?