

**Question for written answer E-014998/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Organisation of working time for permanent members of the Cypriot army

According to announcements issued by the Associations of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Cypriot Army on 29 and 30 May 2015, respectively, the Cypriot Ministry of Defence, in consultation with the General Staff of the National Guard, withdrew on 27 May 2015 a proposal for a regulation governing the service and duty time of members of the army of the Republic of Cyprus, even though it featured on the agenda of the plenary sitting of the House of Representatives for adoption on 28 May 2015.

The Associations of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Cypriot Army emphasise that they constitute a unique category of civil servant in that they lack statutory working hours, which is, in all likelihood, also a breach of the Working Time Directive currently in force. That Directive sets common minimum requirements for workers, including limits of weekly working time and rest periods, and covers all employment contracts. Moreover, ECJ rulings make it clear that an entire professional group cannot be excluded from the Directive, even if this group is excluded from the right to strike (e.g. hospital staff on standby services and firefighters).

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- How will it ensure that the scope of the Directive is extended to include officers and NCOs of the Cypriot army?
- Is it acceptable for the Commission that no working time rules exist for the employees in question?