

**Question for written answer E-003062/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Trade union repression in Bulgaria

On 14 July, Todor Kapitanov, Vice-President of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria and Chair of the National Strike Committee, was arrested at a demonstration organised by workers on the Trakia motorway calling for a wage increase. He was then handcuffed and allegedly injured, even though the peaceful demonstration had been organised in full compliance with trade union rules, human rights standards and democratic principles.

These actions are a flagrant violation of trade union rights. As a Member State of the European Union, Bulgaria is bound by Article 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which guarantees the right to freedom of assembly and association, including the right to form and join trade unions. Furthermore, the European Pillar of Social Rights affirms workers' right to fair working conditions and collective bargaining. These rights are also enshrined in International Labour Organization Conventions 87 and 98.

Does the Commission intend:

1. to investigate whether Bulgaria has respected Article 12 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights?
2. to condemn Bulgaria for infringing trade union freedoms in the above-mentioned case?

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