

**Question for written answer E-004677/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Marina Mesure (The Left)

Subject: Panama: new infringement of EU-Central America free trade agreement and undermining of trade union freedoms

For several months now, the Government of Panama has been undermining trade union freedoms, in the midst of extensive protests against Law 462 reforming the social security system.

Trade union repression has been worsening for the SUNTRACS union, which has been subject to 17 arbitrary searches. The AEVE union, which works to defend public education, has also been feeling the effects, with 30 000 teachers – 298 of which are still suspended – having had their wages illegally withheld following strike action.

Once again, Panama is violating International Labour Organization Conventions 87 and 98, along with the association agreement signed with the EU, whose trade components are conditional on respect for fundamental freedoms.

In its written answer of 22 July 2025, the Commission states that it ‘carefully evaluates the different instruments at its disposal, when it comes to considerations of suspension of the application of parts of the Association Agreement with respect to Panama’.¹

In the light of the blatant infringements, does the Commission intend to:

1. take a stand for the immediate payment of the suspended teachers’ salaries and against all forms of trade union repression?
2. suspend parts of the trade agreement given the climate of intimidation Panama’s Government has created against the trade union movement?

Submitted: 24.11.2025

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002130-ASW_EN.html