

Question for written answer E-003177/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: The death of work-free Sundays is rooted in the EU's anti-labour legislation

A provision included in a draft law that allegedly ensures 'equal pay for men and women for equal work' extends the working week to include Sundays and public holidays and adds new industry sectors to the list exceptions to compulsory Sunday rest. The new provision is another link in the long-standing policy of abolishing the observance of Sunday as a day of rest. This policy began under the PASOK and Nea Dimokratia coalition Government and was expanded on under the SYRIZA law.

This attack, which the Nea Dimokratia Government is escalating, is part of the policy that endorsed the 13-hour workday, the system of adjustable working time arrangements, flexible employment arrangements and the undermining of collective agreements. The huge profits of large corporate groups rely on wage stagnation, intensification of work, flexible forms of employment and the continuous extension of working time.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Where does it stand on the fact that European guidelines and the relevant legislation on the organisation of working time, including Directive 2003/88/EC, constitute the institutional framework that is used by Member State governments to extend work to Sundays and public holidays, deregulate fixed working time and intensify the exploitation of workers?
2. Where does it stand on the fact that the ever-growing list of exemptions from compulsory Sunday rest, from retail to an increasing number of industry sectors, is the result of implementing an EU strategy according to which production and businesses function based on the competitiveness and profitability needs of corporate groups and not on the needs of workers for fixed working time and rest?

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