

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-002609/25
to the Commission
Marlena Maląg (ECR)
(27 June 2025)

Subject: Deteriorating working conditions and labour rights violations

This year's Global Rights Index report published by the International Trade Union Confederation reveals an alarming trend of deteriorating working conditions and violations of trade union rights. Europe has not seen such bad results since 2014, yet there was time until November 2024 to implement Directive (EU) 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages, which should improve the situation in this area. The report unfortunately also includes Poland, which is mentioned alongside countries such as Senegal and Lesotho in the context of action taken against trade unions at PKP Cargo. Meanwhile, in recent days the management of PKP Cargo have announced further group redundancies — 4 000 people have already been made redundant, and a further 2 000 are set to go in 2025-2026. In addition, the trade unionists say the company is planning to sell or scrap 10 000 wagons, including those designed to transport military equipment, which is of economic and strategic importance.

1. Does the Commission recognise the problem of labour rights violations at PKP Cargo?
2. Has Poland applied for support under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund in connection with the further waves of redundancies at PKP Cargo?
3. Is the sale or scrapping of rolling stock suitable for transporting military equipment in line with the EU's strategy to strengthen its competitiveness, autonomy and defence capabilities?

Submitted: 27.6.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(4 August 2025)

While the Commission is not aware of the problems of labour rights violations at PKP Cargo, the enforcement of labour rights is a competence of Member States.

The Commission has lately received no request from Poland for European Globalisation Fund (EGF) co-financing to support former PKP Cargo workers, nor workers made redundant in other enterprises.

The Honourable Member may wish to communicate with the EGF Contact Persons for Poland ⁽¹⁾, should she wish to know whether such an application is being planned concerning further waves of redundancies at PKP Cargo.

Ensuring that Member States can access relevant capabilities to transport their military personnel, equipment, and supply is critical to the EU and its Member States' defence readiness.

As outlined in the Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 ⁽²⁾, Military mobility will be strengthened by increased availability of specialised and dual-use transport assets in all transport modes.

The Commission is now preparing a Military Mobility package where the issue of transport assets will be addressed.

⁽¹⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/funding/european-globalisation-adjustment-fund-displaced-workers-egf/how-apply_en.
⁽²⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/introducing-white-paper-european-defence-and-rearm-europe-plan-readiness-2030_en.