

Question for written answer E-002247/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: The new EU directive-based calculation of the minimum wage is anti-labour

The Nea Dimokratia Government has presented a new method of calculating the minimum wage, which goes against workers and their interests, stating its determination to set it in stone with a ministerial decree. The aim is to definitively abolish the use of collective bargaining agreements to set the minimum wage.

The Nea Dimokratia Government is launching a fresh anti-labour attack based on the Vroutsis-Achtsioglou law, Law No 4172/2013, adopted under the Nea Dimokratia-Pasok coalition, and Directive (EU) 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union. By government decision, wages are now to be calculated based on a mathematical formula that will take ‘productivity’ and inflation into account. The resulting wage will be barely enough to live on, keeping the minimum wage only just above the poverty line.

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

1. Why does Directive (EU) 2022/2041 misleadingly refer to ‘adequate’ minimum wages when it actually leads to a reduction in wages in terms of workers’ purchasing power, as its implementation by the Greek Government proves?
2. Based on the above directive, on the basis of what criteria can the established minimum wage be considered ‘adequate’?
3. Why does the directive legalise the abolition of minimum wage-setting through collective bargaining agreements in Greece and in 20 out of the 27 EU Member States, thus reinforcing the arbitrariness of employers and seeking to undermine the fight of the workers’ trade union movement for better wages, working and living conditions for workers?

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