

**Question for written answer E-002254/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Access to justice for European Works Council – Verizon Ireland case

Verizon Ireland has refused to fund an expert for the Verizon European Works Council (EWC), which took legal action against this decision. The Irish Labour Court dismissed the case (TID214), stating that the EWC chairperson is not acting as an individual before the court, but on behalf of the EWC, and that the EWC, as a collective, cannot pursue claims under Irish law.

1. If an EWC, as a collective body, does not have the right of recourse to the Irish courts, how does the Commission consider that the rights under Directive 2009/38/EC¹ (the EWC Directive) can be enforced in Ireland?
2. Does the Commission consider that Ireland is complying with all its obligations under the EWC Directive, in particular regarding access to justice?
3. In its letter of formal notice of 19 May 2022, the Commission called on the Irish Government to ensure that Irish law effectively enforces workers' rights under the EWC Directive within two months. What did the review show, why has the Commission considered that it should take no further steps and does the Commission intend to enforce EU law by taking the next step in infringement proceedings against Ireland?

Submitted: 24.10.2024

¹ Directive 2009/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees, OJ L 122, 16/05/2009, p. 28, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/38/oj>.