

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Access to justice for European Works Council - Verizon Case

Verizon Ireland refused to fund an expert for the EWC, which took legal action against this decision. The Irish Labour Court dismissed the case (TID214), stating the EWC Chariman is not acting as an individual before the court, but on behalf of the EWC, and 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/EC can be enforced in Ireland?
- 2 Does the Commission consider that Ireland is complying with all the obligations under the EWC Directive, in particular regarding access to justice?
- 3 In its letter of formal notice of 19 May 2022, the Commission had called on the Irish government to ensure that Irish law effectively enforces the workers' rights under the EWC Directive within two months. What did the review show and why has the Commission considered to take no further steps? Does the Commission intend to enforce European law by taking the next step in infringement proceedings against Ireland?

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