Dear colleagues,

Last Saturday, the [Belgian newspaper De Standaard published an in-depth article](https://m.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20191212_04764354?articlehash=B8311033EF587BFA239EF25C081CCB4CFD8DC1C2E574C06C3C6BA563CE88D3186726CDC91E9B8F30BC7926CAF55CF21C562A13B8F7BCDE6172FA9D7802098FBD)about the construction of the new building of the European Council.

Undocumented workers coming from Bulgaria, Romania, Portugal, but also from Brazil, Moldova and Russia, have been exploited and have been put to risk on the construction site.

These construction workers were put to work without contracts and without the social security safety net in case an accident would have happened. Additionally, these workers often have not even been paid what was promised to them.

The premises of the European Council were supposed to be something that people in Europe could be proud of, but it has turned into a disgrace for the whole of the European Union.

In a letter to the Finnish presidency, representing the European Council, we would therefore like to ask these questions underneath:

1.       Has the main contractor being made responsible and liable for the whole chain of subcontractors it cooperates with during a construction project, in the public procurement policy of the European Union? And if not, is the Finnish presidency willing to include this responsibility and liability into the EU policy for all future tenders?

2.       Is the Finnish presidency willing to conduct research which people have been working without papers and without contracts during the construction of the European Council premises, and establish, in cooperation with the Belgian authorities, who might be eligible for compensation of unpaid salaries and social security premiums?

3.       Will the Finnish presidency come up with a legislative proposal for an obligatory construction site identification system – a *European Construction Site Identity Card* - for all people working on these sites, in order to improve the safety of all workers on the sites and to improve enforcement.

Kathleen van Brempt and Agnes Jongerius and others