

**Question for written answer E-010182/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Nikola Vuljanić (GUE/NGL)

Subject: EU Youth Guarantee

The Commission launched its 'Youth Guarantee' scheme in order to stimulate youth employment rates, particularly in those countries hardest hit by the crisis, such as Greece and Spain, but also in Croatia, where in 2012 young people up to 29-years-old accounted for as many as 40% of all unemployed.

Given that generations of young people are unable to find employment, such an effort is absolutely vital.

However, questions remain as to the quality and universality of the 'Youth Guarantee'. Many youth organisations throughout Europe have pointed out that the total amount of funds to be set aside for this scheme is only EUR 6 billion.

In its most recent recommendation, the Commission set a deadline for the end of October 2013 for the submission of implementation plans in respect of statistical regions where unemployment exceeds 25%. This, regrettably, will result in a process favouring form at the expense of quality.

It must be pointed out that no proper consultations are being held with social partners, such as the Croatian trade unions and youth organisations which have submitted comments to the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL).

Does the Commission have accurate estimates as to how large an effect the 'Youth Guarantee' will have, with particular regard to Croatia?

How does it plan to monitor and evaluate implementation, and will it be possible to modify the measures in view of the fact that several of them are at odds with Croatia's socio-economic circumstances?