

**Question for written answer E-005747/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Free movement of EU workers in Switzerland

Since the early 2000s Switzerland has shown a willingness to open up its borders. However, the referendum of 9 February 2014 bucked that trend and ushered in an immigrant quota system for EU workers. This development has been the cause of much concern in Galicia, as Switzerland is home to a large number of migrants from that region.

The referendum result is at odds with the Switzerland–EU Bilateral Agreement on the free movement of EU workers, around 600 000 EU workers having moved to Switzerland since the agreement entered into force in 2002. Contrary to allegations made by the referendum's supporters, the unemployment rate for Swiss citizens is 2.2 %.

What diplomatic action have the Commission and the Member States taken in relation to this matter in the six or so months since the referendum? How will the referendum result affect Switzerland's compliance with the Bilateral Agreement on the free movement of workers and what are the implications for EU workers currently residing in that country? Has the Commission developed any initiatives to protect EU workers and to ensure that Switzerland honours its commitments?