

**Question for written answer E-005857/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Granting university lecturers permanent positions

In Portugal, the Ministry of Education and Science has denied university lecturers who have been working full-time on fixed-term contracts for several years the opportunity to be given permanent positions.

Lecturers and unions are demanding that these members of staff be taken on permanently on the basis of Directive 1999/70/EC, in the sense that people on fixed-term contracts are being used to meet the permanent needs of the establishments concerned.

An identical situation involving thousands of teachers in primary- and secondary-level education led to Commission intervention. In that instance, following a lengthy court case, the Portuguese Government announced at the start of the year that an exceptional recruitment competition would be held for permanent teaching staff. However, this legal protection did not extend to higher education.

According to the National Teachers' Federation (FENPROF), two thousand lecturers working exclusively for higher education institutions would be handed permanent positions if the EU Directive were applied.

Can the Commission provide the following information:

- Is it aware of this situation, and what view does it take?
- In particular, what view does it take of the extent to which Directive 1999/70/EC has been complied with? Is there a reason for the difference between the treatment of primary- and secondary-school teachers and that of university lecturers in this respect?