

**Question for written answer E-006622/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Guaranteed minimum income: generalised poverty level among the employed and unemployed

The Greek Government has introduced a guaranteed minimum income similar to that existing in other Member States. However, against a backdrop of unemployment, taxes, loans, pay cuts and reductions in welfare and unemployment benefits (received by about 10% of the unemployed) it is simply serving to conceal and indeed perpetuate the wave of poverty currently submerging the country, since it is payable only to those in extreme poverty. Those with incomes just one euro more than EUR 4 800 annually and small property owners, irrespective of whether or not they have any form of income, do not qualify.

The guaranteed minimum income is designed to force both the employed and the unemployed below a generalised poverty level by ending collective bargaining and encouraging the growing number of temporary, ill-paid jobs now becoming prevalent (particularly for young people) in the EU, since anyone refusing employment for remuneration even one euro above the monthly minimum (EUR 400) forfeits entitlement. EU policies such as these, which are directed against the working class, are effectively undermining the workforce, while ensuring profits for monopolies.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say whether the policy of replacing pay and benefits with a minimum subsistence income is in line with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and the supervisory mechanism applicable in all the Member States under the Memorandum?