

**Question for written answer E-007088/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Unemployed persons without benefits - new figures

Portuguese Social Security data shows that in April 2014 the Portuguese state paid unemployment benefit to just over half of those registered as unemployed. The number of people receiving unemployment benefit was 356 490, or 10 522 less than in March 2014, leaving 311 000 people registered at employment centres without the right to receive any benefits.

The same source also shows that the average amount paid in benefits fell from EUR 468.93 to EUR 465.06 when the two periods are compared.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Given that these figures illustrate the destructive impact of implementing the Troika programme, is the Commission prepared to support the withdrawal of policies drafted along similar lines as part of the European Semester and Budgetary Treaty?
2. What steps does it intend to take in response to the economic and social disaster revealed by these figures?
3. Does it not consider the rights of the unemployed to be affected, given that less than half of them are receiving unemployment benefits (to which they are entitled, having paid contributions while they were working) and the average amount of benefits has fallen? What action does it intend to take to remedy this situation, through the EU's country-specific recommendations to Member States?