

**Question for written answer E-007300/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Increasing the amounts that unemployed beneficiaries receive under the training voucher system

Vocational training programmes for the unemployed have been intermittently under way in Greece using the training voucher system which is aimed at reducing unemployment. They combine theoretical training with practical work experience and are funded in part by the European Social Fund.

However, there have been a large number of complaints, in particular in publications in the electronic and printed press, that a very large share of the resources of the ESF funds referred to above goes to the advice and training providers at the expense of the intended beneficiaries, namely the unemployed. Thus, in the programme 'Voucher for young people aged between 25 to 29 years to join private companies to acquire work experience', which was launched in August 2014, providers will receive between EUR 1 080 and 1 380 per person for the services they provide to the unemployed, while the unemployed trainees themselves will receive between EUR 2 280 and EUR 2 550.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- Is it aware of the fact that such a large proportion of the ESF funds for training vouchers does not ultimately go to the unemployed, but to the advice and training providers?
- What measures will it take to increase the amounts that the unemployed beneficiaries receive under the training voucher system?