

**Question for written answer E-008974/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Executive pay

Harvard Business School has recently published a study entitled, 'How much (more) should CEOs make? A universal desire for more equal pay'. The study reveals, on the one hand, a desire for more equality in the salaries paid by companies and, on the other, a perception of these inequalities as being much smaller than they really are. People consequently believe that, on average, CEOs earn just five times more than unskilled workers when they actually earn 53 times more. The study, which was conducted in 40 OECD countries, shows, for example, that, in Germany, CEOs earn 147 times more than unskilled workers. The difference is 354 times in the US and 48 times in Denmark.

Since Directives 2007/36/EC and 2013/34/EU on promoting long-term commitment on the part of shareholders and good governance in companies, including executive pay policy, are currently under review, I ask the Commission whether it is inclined to propose a limit on executive pay and thereby help to promote more equal pay in companies?