

**Question for written answer E-009872/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)**

Subject: Partnership agreement with Malta

Among the Member States, the evolution of the employment rate for the 20-64 age group during the period 2002-2013 has shown that only Germany and Malta had almost continuous growth in employment over the whole period, although an opposite trend has been identified for those aged 55 to 64. For this age group the employment rate rose until around 2008, and then fell.

Taking into account the fact that the Commission has adopted a partnership agreement with Malta in which it sets out the strategy for the optimal use of European Structural and Investment Funds by the country for the period 2014-2020, EUR 1.05 million will be made available from the European Social Fund (ESF) to help Malta in increasing employment and reducing poverty in line with the Europe 2020 targets;

Taking into account the fact that the corresponding ESF projects focus mainly on creating opportunities for young people, could the Commission:

1. indicate its strategy for securing employment opportunities for those aged 55 to 64 and for attracting and retaining the participation of this age group in employment?
2. indicate whether Malta's proposals for the use of these funds are in line with the Commission's strategy?