

**Question for written answer E-009886/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Pension reform victims and the European Social Fund

In Italy, the fate of the so-called 'esodati' continues to hang in the balance. 'Esodati' is the term coined by the Italian press for tens of thousands of retired workers who had agreed to take voluntary redundancy in the belief that they were close to qualifying for a pension, only for pension requirements to then change in a reform implemented by the Monti government in December 2011. Commonly known as the 'Fornero reform', it created extreme difficulties for these retirees, leaving them with no job, no income and no pension, as under the new regulations they are no longer close to meeting the necessary criteria.

Having regard to the question P-004363/2014, the Commission seemed to indicate that the European Social Fund (ESF) could be made available to help these individuals, providing that Italy mentioned this possibility in its operational plans, which were to be submitted to the Commission by the end of July.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether Italy included support for the 'esodati' as a priority for action in its ESF operational programme?
2. If so, what measures have been proposed or was it possible to request to compensate for the harm caused by this short-sighted and foolhardy reform?