

**Question for written answer E-010759/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Labour cost

Eurostat recently published that the average labour cost per hour worked in Spain in 2012 was EUR 21.1. This figure is 28% below the euro area average of EUR 29.3 and 12.8% lower than the EU average of EUR 24.2.

This makes Spain the eighth country with the lowest labour costs per hour of the euro area and places it far below the levels of countries such as France (34.6) or Germany (31.6).

There is no doubt, and this is certified by the Spanish National Institute of Statistics (INE), that since the implementation of the Spanish Government's labour reform this trend has been increasing over the past two years, to the extent that organisations such as the ILO have certified that wages in Spain have lost 17% of their purchasing power.

Given the constant calls for the moderation and reduction of wages made by EU institutions, does the Commission consider Spanish labour costs to be sufficiently competitive, taking into account that they are the eighth lowest in the euro area?

Is the Commission not concerned about the plummeting purchasing power of wages, and the increase in poverty, particularly of children, in Spain?