

**Question for written answer E-010965/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE) and Enrique Calvet Chambon (ALDE)**

Subject: Unpaid internship practice in Europe

Unpaid internships have become a pillar of the current working system in Europe. Not paying interns is considered common practice in most fields of the professional market, leading to strong social discrimination on the basis of wealth rather than talent.

Today, in such a critical panorama of youth unemployment – according to Eurostat's latest data, the youth unemployment rate is still alarming in the eurozone, with the highest peaks in Greece (25.9 %) and Spain (24 %) – countries such as the United Kingdom have more than one in three graduate interns currently working for no remuneration (data from the Sutton Trust, published in November 2014).

Parliament's joint resolution of 12 June 2013 on preparations for the European Council meeting (27-28 June 2013) – European action to combat youth unemployment<sup>1</sup>, drafted by Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska (EPP), called for quality standards for pay, working conditions and health and safety in traineeships.

Since this resolution (2013/2673(RSP)), what actions has the Commission taken in order to guarantee basic working conditions and fair pay for trainees in European countries?

---

<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2013)0270.