

Question for written answer E-001057/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Increasing the number of recipients of unemployment benefit

As a result of the tough 'Memorandum' policies pursued in recent years in Greece by successive Greek governments and the Troika, the Greek people have been reduced to poverty and vast numbers of people have become unemployed.

Specifically, in October 2014 the unemployment rate in the country hit 25.8%.

According to data from the Greek Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED), the total number of registered unemployed (job seekers) in November 2014 was 854 517.

Of these unemployed persons, 450 809 (52.76%) have been registered with the OAED for a period equal to or greater than 12 months.

But the total number of unemployed persons receiving unemployment benefits in the same period was only 14% of the registered unemployed.

This means that more than 700 000 unemployed persons do not receive any help whatsoever from the State in order to survive.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What immediate steps will it take to increase substantially the number of unemployed entitled to receive unemployment benefits through the OAED?