

**Question for written answer E-001172/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: Undercutting the minimum working wage through underpaid internships

In the current economic crisis, and with high unemployment rates across Europe, graduate wages are being strongly undercut owing to the growing number of internships and unpaid practices.

In the UK, a recruitment company named Placement UK is currently offering firms the chance to employ interns to fill permanent roles at 'half the cost of employing people through traditional means'. It was recently revealed that this company advertises to corporate clients that it can offer them interns to work for as little as GBP 6 000 a year, compared with the GBP 12 875 salary of someone employed full-time at the national minimum wage.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to safeguard interns from exploitation?

What is the current situation following the adoption of the Quality Framework for Traineeships in 2014 with a view to improving the quality of traineeships?