

**Question for written answer E-003221/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

João Ferreira (GUE/NGL), Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL) and Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Portugal in the excessive imbalance category

In its latest communication on the Annual Growth Survey for 2015, published in November 2014, the Commission cited Portugal as an example of a country applying 'effective structural reforms', referring to the labour market reforms carried out between 2011 and 2013.

This week, Commissioner Moscovici said that there were still significant risks in Portugal, such as the high level of debt and unemployment, as a result of which the Commission was placing Portugal in the excessive imbalance category, entailing constant vigilance.

1. What has changed so substantially with regard to the unemployment problem in Portugal between November 2014 and February 2015?
2. Does the Commission not believe that the same measures which it recommends to reduce Portuguese debt – which has not come about – have also led to the rise in unemployment?