

**Question for written answer E-005600/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Strategy for equality between men and women

Equality between men and women has long been a major subject of debate in the European Union. Today, we are told that this need for equality is an economic necessity: the EU will have a shortfall of 24 million workers by 2040, unless the employment rate for women catches up with that for men. This equal treatment would also be a necessary condition if the Europe 2020 target of a 75% employment rate is to be met.

However, many measures already in place for a number of years have not yet made it possible to solve this problem, and the issue of women choosing not to work appears to have been ignored.

1. Under these circumstances, does the Commission intend to impose quotas on employers to force them to hire or promote more women?
2. Does the Commission not fear that this positive discrimination will lead to a drop in performance in the workplace, and therefore to a fall in production, since in the long term the main selection criterion will then be the sex of the candidate rather than his or her experience or qualifications?