

**Question for written answer E-005743/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

**Subject:** Misuse of Employment Programmes in the Azores

According to the monthly statistics produced by the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training, 4929 inhabitants of the Azores were registered in Employment Programmes for those islands in December 2014. In fact, this has simply removed almost 5000 jobless from the unemployment statistics, assigning them on a permanent basis to tasks for which they are grossly underpaid. For example, the 'beneficiaries' of the programme for social inclusion benefit claimants work 80 hours a month for EUR 100, which is blatant exploitation. Furthermore, the Employment Programmes are of great benefit to the public sector, effectively sparing it the need to recruit staff to meet ongoing requirements.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether these Employment Programmes are receiving EU funding?
2. Does it consider this to be in line with its frequently reiterated pronouncements regarding the need for the creation of quality jobs? What is its assessment of the situation?