

**Question for written answer E-011882/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Measures to ease the impact of personnel cuts at Lajes Field

On 8 January 2015, the US Government announced its intention to cut the number of Air Force personnel at Lajes Field on the island of Terceira in the Azores. This implies an enormous reduction in the number of direct and indirect jobs for Portuguese civilians. In terms of direct jobs, it is expected that 420 of the 800 or so Portuguese workers employed at the base will be made redundant. The cuts also mean that about 600 relatives of US Air Force personnel have already left the island, which is having a huge impact on indirect jobs that depended on the presence of US Air Force personnel and their families. Terceira has a population of about 55 000, and the US Government's decision could lead to a 15 % drop in the island's GDP. This means that measures need to be taken to promote the island's economy and ease the impact of personnel cuts at Lajes Field.

What funding can be made available under the EU's current multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020 to enable the Portuguese authorities to promote economic measures that will create jobs and support those affected by the US Government's decision?