

**Question for written answer E-011922/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Harsh conditions of employment in the tourism sector

In Greece, companies in the tourism sector have been able to hire staff without it costing them a penny in pay or insurance contributions thanks to subsidy programmes implemented by the SYRIZA-ANEL and previous governments

Under the European subsidised work experience programme in the tourism sector, 8000 jobless young people aged up to 29 are being recruited by private companies in this sector for theoretical training and hands-on experience, earning up to EUR 2 458 for 500 hours of work (less than EUR 5 per hour) with no insurance cover, while companies agreeing to train them receive up to EUR 1 360 per unemployed trainee recruited.

To make matters worse, this free workforce is also being used to replace regular staff, with fixed-term contracts of as little as one day becoming the norm, accompanied by age-related discrimination, and the practice of recruiting foreigners to carry out arduous tasks at hotels, requiring them to work long hours for low pay under unpleasant conditions.

This has resulted in the death a 19-year old Ukrainian apprentice, at his workplace in a hotel in Zakynthos.

While the profits of companies in this sector have increased despite the crisis, pay levels have fallen dramatically, belying claims made by successive Greek governments and the Troika regarding those who really benefit from capitalist expansion.

In view of this:

What view does the Commission take of the inadmissible conditions of employment in this sector?

What view does it take of the fact that European employment programmes are undermining collective agreements and resulting in harsh working conditions?