

**Question for written answer E-001165/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Tailored inclusion programmes for unemployed middle-aged women

More and more older women are trying to enter or return to the labour market than ever before. However the majority of them are faced with many challenges. In May 2014, an article from *The Independent* analysing the issue in the UK referred to them as 'the forgotten army of over-50s women' given the high number of women without employment and the lack of job market inclusion strategies targeting them.

In Europe as a whole the situation is not much different. Structural policies to enhance the functioning of EU labour markets are crucial to improving this situation. Although the responsibility for employment policies still mainly lies with the Member States, initiatives taken at EU level can provide added value.

Between 2008 and 2011, the unemployment rate of older people grew at a steady rate in many EU countries.

As stated in a 2013 study by DG Internal Policies, the Europe 2020 employment strategy does not contain defined employment targets for older workers.

In order to lower the unemployment rate of older people, and the impact it has, does the Commission intend to undertake concrete measures at EU level to cope with this issue and promote an inclusive EU labour market?