

**Question for written answer E-001410/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Revision of the Posted Workers Directive

In its 2016 Work Programme, the Commission set out plans for a review of the Posting of Workers Directive, which, among other things, would ensure that 'the same work in the same place is rewarded by the same pay'.

However, this approach could pose a significant threat to the freedom to provide services, one of the cornerstones of the European Union and an essential condition for the functioning of the common market. The principle of equal pay for equal work virtually eliminates the possibility of price competition in the services sector. It would remove the factors of competitive advantage which have been and still are the basis for the international and European division of labour. All at the same time as the Commission is promoting its current 'smart specialisation' strategy.

The revision of the Posting of Workers Directive may also have adverse affects for consumers, as they will be unable to choose the best provider, which will have the effect of pushing up prices. The principle of 'equal pay' may also make it harder for companies to independently manage their business, by setting pay at too high a level and removing the capacity to create incentive-based pay systems. These are ideas and methods we are familiar with from communist and socialist systems, all of which went bankrupt a long time ago.

What is the Commission's justification for such a dangerous decision? Can it set out the conclusions it has drawn from the implementation of the current directive?