Question for written answer E-001470/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Convergence and the labour market in the EU

President Juncker recently reiterated that a greater degree of economic convergence among the Member States remains essential for the stability of the single currency. In practical terms, implementing such a policy requires Member States to introduce binding and costly reform packages, in particular to modernise their national labour markets and safeguard a common set of social rights. These measures, designed to bring about macroeconomic stabilisation, take no account of the specific features of local markets, even though the microeconomic variables reflect a wide range of differing social realities.

Given that many of the reforms which have already been implemented have not had the desired effects and have made very little contribution to economic recovery, why does the Commission persist in pushing through so many reforms when achieving real convergence, particularly on the labour market, is impossible in the context of sluggish economic growth?