

**Question for written answer E-001961/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Edouard Ferrand (ENF)

Subject: France: Unemployment statistics

According to the latest figures from the French employment agency, unemployment in France decreased by 0.8% in January, reflecting a mysterious and inexplicable improvement in the data given the general economic context.

As this is not the first time the French Government has played on the different categories of unemployment to demonstrate an improvement, by moving them from one category to another, or by simply striking them off the lists as 'removed on grounds of deregistration', would the Commission please say:

1. Does it intend to verify French unemployment figures directly?
2. Will the Commission remind the French Government to stick to the use of objective criteria, in order to avoid any massaging of the statistics?