

**Question for written answer E-002272/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marco Valli (EFDD) and Laura Agea (EFDD)

Subject: Unemployment funds fraud

The Special Public Expenditure and Fraud Suppression Unit of Italy's Guardia di Finanza (responsible for customs, excise and tax policing), working in collaboration with the Italian agency responsible for attracting investment and developing businesses, has uncovered fraud totalling almost EUR 40 million and committed by over one thousand individuals who have unjustly benefited from public funds intended to help fight unemployment.

The Guardia di Finanza operation, which covered the whole country, uncovered numerous irregularities by analysing and checking the position of over 10 000 businesses that benefited from the EUR 411 million disbursed under Legislative Decree No 185 of 21 April 2000, which was brought in to encourage self-employment among job-seekers.

The illegal actions comprised either fraudulent behaviour, such as drawing up and signing false documents, or non-compliance with specific requirements and obligations deemed necessary in order to obtain the subsidies in question.

In order to determine whether or not sufficient grounds for fraud to the detriment of the European Union exist in this case, can the Commission say whether EU funds figured among the funds disbursed?

If EU funds were among the funds disbursed, can the Commission give the total figure for the EU funds involved?

Lastly, does it intend to alert OLAF so that an in-depth inquiry may be opened?