

**Question for written answer E-003308/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The Europe 2020 strategy and the communication entitled 'An open and secure Europe: making it happen': immigration and the labour market

In its communication entitled 'An open and secure Europe: making it happen', the Commission calls for increased recourse to immigration.

Despite the high rates of unemployment in Europe, the mismatch between the jobs on offer and the jobs that people are seeking is apparently leading to workforce shortages in some sectors, meaning that there is a need to call upon immigrant workers. Furthermore, 'the better integration of migrants in the work force' is a Europe 2020 strategy priority.

1. The Commission's position is based on the assumption that immigration is a positive factor in the labour market, even when unemployment is high. On what economic analyses is that assumption based?
2. This year, the Council and the Commission have reviewed the guidelines for the Member States' employment policies. Given the high levels of unemployment, does the Commission still take the view that increasing immigration is desirable, and that the integration of migrants is a priority?
3. The Commission's insistence on integrating 'refugees' into the labour market is a feature of the aforementioned framework programmes, which advocate an increase in economic immigration. Does the fact that these elements chime with one another not demonstrate that 'refugee reception' is in fact a channel of economic immigration?