

**Question for written answer E-004956/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Inácio Faria (ALDE)**

Subject: Employment of Cuban doctors in Portugal

To make up for the shortage of doctors in some parts of the country, Portugal has since 2009 been hiring Cuban doctors on a temporary basis. It used to pay a Cuban state-owned firm roughly EUR 5 900 a month for each doctor; the amount was revised downwards to EUR 4 230 at the end of 2011. The Cuban doctors do not, however, receive the full salary for their work, but, according to the Portuguese Medical Association, only about EUR 900, as the rest of what Portugal pays is docked by the Cuban authorities. This discriminatory treatment turns them into second-class citizens, since they are not free to choose another type of employment unless they go back to Cuba.

Is the Commission aware of this situation and does it believe that it constitutes discrimination?

Bearing in mind that Portugal and Cuba are members of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), does the Commission think that the recruitment of skilled labour under an arrangement of this kind between the Portuguese and Cuban authorities can be reconciled with the fundamental principles and rights championed by the ILO and supported by the EU?