

**Question for written answer E-005668/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: European pillar of social rights and the free movement of workers and services on the single market

Many Member States are contending with social problems that have arisen as a result of the economic crisis, in particular high unemployment rates. In some other Member States – in particular those in Central and Eastern Europe – there are historical reasons for the relatively low levels of prosperity.

The Commission has therefore begun working on the creation of a European pillar of social rights. The initiative will be aimed at the eurozone countries, and other countries are to have the option of joining on a voluntary basis. Consultations are currently underway to assess the EU's existing social acquis, review recent trends in the organisation of work and society and identify the direction that reforms to national labour markets and social security systems should take.

The Commission proposals should take account of the social and economic reality in Member States, however. In particular, Commission initiatives should not in any way undermine the freedoms that are fundamental to the single market – the free movement of workers and of services – nor should they make it possible for Member States to infringe those freedoms. Any action that undermines those freedoms under the pretext of combating unfair competition or social dumping is entirely at odds with the philosophy of the single market and the principles and rules underpinning it.

How will the Commission, when creating the European pillar of social rights, guarantee the free movement of workers and services on the single market?