

**Question for written answer E-006992/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE) and Jozo Radoš (ALDE)

Subject: Consequences of depopulation

The Commission President has recently spoken about the idea that workers should receive the same pay for the same job in the same place. He added that the Commission strongly supports the proposal for a directive on foreign workers and that the single labour market is not a place in which to exploit workers from eastern Europe or subject them to lower social standards. That all workers should be paid the same for the same job is, at all events, a laudable aspiration. Eastern Europe, however, is being hit by another phenomenon posing a challenge to the single market: because the educated working population are emigrating, certain parts of the EU are in the process of being condemned to what will most likely be long-term stagnation. In addition, the substantial investment required in order to educate young people is in this way flowing out of poorer parts of the EU into richer parts.

Has the Commission studied the above phenomenon in order to determine how far it might contribute in the long term to the further impoverishment of already poor parts of the EU?

Are there any measures, apart from those falling under cohesion policy, that the Commission is planning to take to help mitigate the stagnation brought about by emigration of the educated working population?