

**Question for written answer E-007698/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Liliana Rodrigues (S&D)**

Subject: Discriminatory comments about foreigners and using them as 'bargaining chips' for Brexit

In recent comments made by members of the British Government, namely the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, and the Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox, concerning immigrants working or studying in the UK, a crackdown was announced on the recruitment of foreign workers in British companies. It was suggested that this could involve forcing companies to reveal what proportion of their employees come from abroad. There was also mention of restricting the right of foreign students to study at British universities, using EU citizens resident in the UK as 'bargaining chips' in Brexit negotiations, and sending letters to foreign residents to collect information about their country of birth, nationality and the level of proficiency in English of the thousands of young people who study in the British education system.

In view of the comments made by the Prime Minister, Theresa May, who suggested that British workers could be left unemployed or facing lower salaries as a result of low-skilled immigration:

1. What is the Commission's view of these discriminatory and intimidating comments and suggested measures against immigrants in the UK?
2. How can the Commission hope to negotiate with the UK, when it suggests that foreign nationals should be used as 'bargaining chips' for Brexit?