

**Question for written answer E-007877/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between Switzerland and the EU

The Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between Switzerland and the EU is a part of a package of bilateral agreements (known as Bilateral Agreements I) which were signed in 1999 and entered into force in 2002. These agreements represent the beginning of a gradual labour market liberalisation between the EU and Switzerland. According to the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between Switzerland and the EU, new EU Member States shall not automatically become Parties to the Agreement, but as such they must explicitly be accepted by Switzerland via a protocol. On 9 February 2014, it was decided by the Swiss referendum to introduce immigration quotas, which led to delaying the signing of the Protocol according to which the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between Switzerland and the EU would also cover Croatia. Switzerland signed the Protocol on 4 March 2016, nearly three years after Croatia had joined the EU. However, it has not yet been ratified, and Croatian workers in Switzerland are still being discriminated against compared to the nationals of other EU Member States.

In this regard, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Is there a legal time frame within which Switzerland should have provided the same rights to workers from the Republic of Croatia as those to workers from other EU Member States?
2. Has the Commission set the requirements for compensation to Croatian citizens regarding discrimination compared to citizens from other Member States?