

**Question for written answer E-000070/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Irregularities in monitoring vocational training funding in the Murcia region (Spain)

The Murcia region's public accounts department notified the Commission on 5 April 2013 of irregularities committed by Murcia's regional department for employment and training (SEF) in monitoring vocational training funding. As a result, the Commission suspended an interim payment of EUR 995 116.50 (see letter of 5 February 2013 from DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Ref.: 142922 EMPLIE4/FGB/sp D(2013)).

In order to correct its report, the SEF drafted a new set of internal rules, bringing in new criteria that applied retroactively in an effort to address the shortcomings that had been identified. As a result, a number of organisations received financial penalties, and cases were brought against a number of beneficiaries for the recovery of sums paid. The courts, however, found in favour of the organisations concerned, and annulled the recovery orders issued by the SEF.

1. Does the Commission know how many recovery orders were issued? What was the total amount concerned? Have the amounts included in the new report, which were then annulled by the courts, been corrected?
2. What is the current state of play, where the Murcia region is concerned, as regards the case relating to the European Social Fund Operational Programme, Murcia region, 2007-2013 (CCI. 2007.ES.051.P0009)?
3. As a result of that case, have steps been taken with a view to holding anyone to account and to recovering funding?