

**Question for written answer E-005231/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Refugees and unemployment statistics in Germany

In 2015, Germany took in 1.1 million refugees<sup>1</sup>.

The number of asylum applications increased from 6500 per month in March 2013 to 95 000 per month in August 2016<sup>2</sup>.

Nevertheless, Eurostat statistics<sup>3</sup> show a continuous decline in unemployment in Germany, with no slackening of that trend as a result of the massive increase in the working-age population: 5.4% in January 2013, 5.1% in January 2014, 4.8% in January 2015, 4.4% in January 2016 and 3.9% in January and April 2017 (latest publicly available figure as at 12 June 2017)<sup>4</sup>.

- What explanation does Eurostat have for the fact that the unemployment statistics<sup>5</sup> have not been affected by the sudden increase in the working-age population?
- When does Eurostat expect the influx to have a visible effect on the German statistics?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2016/02/15/migrants-l-allemande-change-de-ton\\_4865509\\_3210.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2016/02/15/migrants-l-allemande-change-de-ton_4865509_3210.html).

<sup>2</sup> [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_asyappctzm](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_asyappctzm).

<sup>3</sup> Eurostat is the Commission's statistics department.

<sup>4</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&plugin=1&language=fr&pcode=teilm020>.

<sup>5</sup> According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition, the rate of unemployment is the percentage of the labour force without a job. The labour force represents the total number of people who either have a job or are unemployed. Unemployed people are those who are aged between 15 and 74 who: – do not have a job during the week in question; – are available to start work within the following two weeks; – have either been actively looking for a job for the previous four weeks, or have found a job to start within the following three months.