

**Question for written answer E-006494/2017
to the Council
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Council recommendation: temporary work and labour fraud

Recital 12 of the Council Recommendation on the 2017 National Reform Programme of Spain – referred to the Council some months ago by the Commission – states that: ‘Spain has one of the highest shares of temporary employment in the Union, and many temporary contracts are of very short duration [...]. The widespread use of temporary contracts is associated with lower productivity growth [...], poorer working conditions and higher poverty risks’. It further goes on to say that some features of the Spanish labour market: ‘[...] may still discourage hiring on permanent contracts, including ... comparatively high severance payments for workers on permanent contracts.’

Following the reforms it has been found that flexibility and lower severance payments have encouraged dismissals. Job quality counts for little on this labour market and the use of temporary and part-time contracts is abused. It is noteworthy that while this Recommendation is concerned about severance payments for permanent contracts, it does not mention the high level of fraud present in temporary and part-time contracts; no determined efforts are being made to fight this form of abuse.

How can the Council contend that the Recommendation is having an effect on job insecurity (lower severance payments) when it does not mention combating labour fraud?