

**Question for written answer E-000030/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Unpaid internships at the Commission

With its ruling on unpaid interns in the EEAS delegations, the European Ombudsman has created a clear precedent on quality internships in the EU institutions. The answer to Written Question E-004895/2017 indicated that the number of unpaid interns in the Commission is increasing, but failed to provide the total numbers per year that would allow a better assessment of the scope of the problem. The high number of unpaid interns in certain DGs points at the potential use of young people as a cheap labour force. Moreover, contrary to the Commission's claims, unpaid interns are being actively recruited by certain DGs.

Building on Written Question E-004895/2017, we have the following questions for the Commission:

What was the total number of unpaid interns taken on by each Commission DG in each of the years 2014, 2015 and 2016?

Does the Commission agree that the current system of unpaid internships, with very high numbers in certain DGs, is a bad practice that needs to be changed? Is the Commission taking steps in this direction?

How will the Commission ensure a transparent and fair recruitment process for all its interns, given that certain DGs are actively recruiting unpaid interns?