

**Question for written answer E-001474/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Lithuania is emptying and yet the Commission continues to advocate worker mobility in Europe

Since joining NATO¹ and then the EU in 2004², Lithuania has lost 16% of its population (source: World Bank and Eurostat³). If the same phenomenon had occurred in France⁴, it would have lost 10.5 million people. At this rate, there will soon be no one left in the country.

The Commission has earmarked EUR 27.5 billion (2014-2020) from the European Social Fund (ESF) for initiatives supporting worker mobility in Europe⁵. This fund is being used to subsidise the disappearance of the population of a Member State.

Above what threshold would the Commission consider that a Member State is threatened with extinction and must stop encouraging population movements?

¹ <https://www.urm.lt/default/fr/politique-etrangere/la-lituanie-dans-la-region-et-dans-le-monde/la-politique-pour-la-securite-de-la-lituanie/lituanie-membre-de-lotan>

² https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adh%C3%A9sion_de_la_Lituanie_%C3%A0_l%27Union_europ%C3%A9enne

³ <https://www.google.be/search?rls=com.microsoft%3Aen-GB%3AIE-SearchBox&dcr=0&ei=A26ZWqSGM87HwALL36nwDw&q=population+de+lituanie&oq=population+de+lituanie&gs>

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8102205/3-10072017-AP-FR.pdf>

⁵ Special Report No 06/2018: Free movement of workers: ensured but better targeting of EU funds would aid worker mobility (p18.)
https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18_06/SR_Labour_Mobility_en.pdf