

**Question for written answer E-002658/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Illegal transfer of workers and fraudulent use of temporary employment contracts

The illegal transfer of workers and fraudulent use of temporary employment contracts have become so widespread in Spain that they even occur within government bodies, which enter into contracts with companies operating as if they were temporary employment agencies but which in reality are not. This fraud is so common it almost seems lawful, although it could in fact infringe a number of EU directives.

Permanent posts are filled through short-term contracts, depriving workers of the proper working conditions recognised in government agreements and through collective bargaining, and cutting by up to 50 % the wages they should receive, plus the corresponding social services contributions and benefits.

The fraudulent employment method is becoming increasingly prevalent, as companies benefit from a lower wage bill and fewer employee entitlements, while the number of complaints by the workers affected are falling through fear, particularly among women and immigrants, of how little it costs to sack them.

Spain is the EU country with the highest rates of working poor and the second highest for numbers of temporary workers: 14.8 % and 26.3 % respectively.

We know that a complaint has been filed with the Commission (EU Pilot, 8918/16 EMPL). We would like to know how the preliminary investigation is progressing and what course of action is envisaged.

Does the Commission have a reliable estimate of the scale of this fraud in Spain and the EU?

Has the Commission taken any action on the issue?