

**Question for written answer E-002920/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Three times more money for promoting the European elections than for the EU labour inspectorate

Brussels has earmarked EUR 11 million for 2019¹ for the creation of an EU-level labour inspectorate, which is equivalent to 2 cents per EU citizen. At the same time, the European Parliament alone will spend three times that amount (EUR 33 million) on advertising aimed at encouraging more people to vote in the 2019 European elections².

Employment, along with immigration and terrorism, is the top priority for EU citizens. With provision made for only 38 administrative staff, any talk of stricter enforcement and a 'European social pillar' is delusional. The shadow economy in the EU, totalling somewhere between EUR 2 trillion and 3 trillion³, is equal to 15 to 20% of the EU's GDP (EUR 15 trillion). There are said to be 600 000 Bulgarian and Romanian lorry drivers and electricians working in France with inadequate social security cover.

In reality, this new authority will mainly be responsible for the job-hunting website EURES. However, the European Court of Auditors has already found that the EUR 165 million invested in EURES 'has had little impact in terms of recorded job placements'⁴.

Will the Commission ask the European Labour Authority to count the number of jobs taken by migrants or foreign residents that could instead be given to EU citizens?

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52018PC0131&from=EN>.

² Politico, 13 March 2018.

³ European Parliament hearing on the European Platform for tackling undeclared work, 9 November 2017.

⁴ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18_06/SR_Labour_Mobility_EN.pdf.