Question for written answer E-003949/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Impact of robotics and AI on the EU job market

How new technology, employment and inequality interact is a cause for concern for a large section of the public. One reason for this lies in reports[1, 2] on the adverse effects widespread use of ICT, including machine learning, digitalisation in manufacturing, robotics and automatic vehicles, could have on employment. With this in mind, Parliament has urged the Commission to monitor these trends closely to prevent job displacement and job losses. There is an importance lesson to be learnt from the past: we tend to underestimate the potential technological changes have for job creation, because we do not have sufficient knowledge or imagination about the kinds of jobs that will be created under the new technological paradigm. Taking it as given that robotics are going to form part of our lives:

1) Does the Commission have information on the impact robotics and AI may have on employment in the EU?

2) Is the Commission working on plans to retrain a large section of the EU workforce so that robotics and artificial intelligence make a positive contribution to the EU economy in terms of jobs?

[1] Brynjolfsson, E., and A. McAfee. 2014. The Second Machine Age: Work, progress, and prosperity in a time of brilliant technologies. New York, London: Norton Publishers.
[2] Peters, B. 2016. Innovation, skills and job creation. In Science, Research and Innovation performance of the EU 2016. A contribution to the Open Innovation Open Science, Open to the World agenda, ed. European Commission, 276-319. Brussels: European Commission, DG Research and Innovation.