

**Question for written answer E-004442/2018/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: South Africa: jobs for South Africans

According to the white paper on international migration issued by the South African authorities¹, countries which manage immigration effectively apply the principle of keeping risks outside their borders. The courts often take decisions on migration policy, resulting in troubling rulings such as the 2004 Watchenuka judgment, which authorises asylum seekers to work and study, a major pull factor which overwhelmed the asylum system². The white paper emphasises the need to ensure that South Africans are not replaced by migrants.

A number of principles have been put forward:

- a work visa is only issued if no South African citizen is able to fill the post in question (p. 45);
- employers of foreign citizens must contribute financially to the training of South African citizens (p. 119);
- visas are granted to entrepreneurs subject to an investment of EUR 300 000³;
- the types of jobs taken by foreigners are monitored (p. 130);
- compliance with labour and migration law must be monitored in order to ensure that South African citizens are not disadvantaged by employers offering lower wages to economic migrants (p. 130).

Which of the resources employed by South Africa to promote the preferential employment of South African citizens could also be used in Europe?

¹ Official Journal No 41009 of 28 July 2017, http://www.dha.gov.za/WhitePaper-Gazette_z.pdf: the trends confirm that South Africa has not succeeded in attracting well-qualified migrants. Most of the migrants arriving in the country are low-skilled. These figures are very worrying, as the aim of international migration policy is to foster economic growth by granting visas to entrepreneurs, tourists and people with essential skills. Many people in South Africa wrongly believe that migrants have a constitutional right to obtain permanent residency or citizenship. It is not the number of years of residency which is the decisive factor in acquiring citizenship. Acquisition of citizenship must be the exception.

² South Africa receives roughly 62 000 asylum applications per year, more than any other African country. Some 90% of these applications are declared inadmissible; during the period from 2012 to 2016, 369 726 irregular migrants were returned to their countries of origin. Asylum applications are rejected if they were not made in the South African embassy in the first safe country en route. South Africa negotiates with countries which are prepared to take in persons to whom it has granted refugee status (p. 135).

³ 5 million South African rand (ZAR).