Question for written answer P-015300/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Edouard Martin (S&D) and Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D)

Subject: Pre-financing for the Youth Guarantee

On 7 and 8 February 2014 the European Council proposed a Youth Employment Initiative with a budget of EUR 6 billion to aid those European regions with more than 25% youth unemployment (in 20 Member States including Spain). The Council had already formally adopted the Youth Guarantee scheme on 22 April 2013.

In response to repeated calls from the European Parliament, which insisted that EUR 6 billion was not enough to combat youth unemployment, particularly in those countries that needed it most, the Commission, in the context of its 2015 programme of work, proposed to raise the initial pre-financing rate of the Youth Employment Initiative from its dedicated budget line from 1% to 30% in 2015, freeing up some EUR 1 billion in extra money for this initial pre-financing.

In view of the conclusions of European Court of Auditors Report 3/2015, and given that the financial year is drawing to an end:

1. What is the Commission's evaluation of the result of this pre-financing in the beneficiary states?

2. Have those countries with the highest youth unemployment rates, such as Greece, Spain and Hungary, been able to benefit to the fullest extent from the increased levels of pre-financing?