

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1302/04

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to the Commission

Subject: Italian cross-border workers in the Principality of Monaco

Italian cross-border workers working in the Principality of Monaco and resident in Italy number some 5 000, according to data recorded by the EU between 1990 and 1996.

Switzerland and other non-Community countries have signed bilateral conventions with Italy to eliminate inequalities in the tax and social security arrangements for Italian cross-border workers compared with those from the contracting states.

Italian cross-border workers in the Principality of Monaco do not enjoy complete social protection and assistance from Monegasque and Italian institutions in their place of work, although they contribute around 15 % of their earned income, while French cross-border workers, who contribute at the same level as Italian workers, are afforded the same social assistance as Monegasque citizens.

The European Union upholds the principle that earned income is taxable in the state of the place of work.

Given the clear inequality in the treatment of the workers mentioned above, can the Commission:

- call on Member States to eliminate inequalities in the tax and social security arrangements for cross-border workers, within the EU or with third countries;
- call on Italy to sign a new bilateral convention with the Principality of Monaco based on the principles and standards of equality in terms of tax and social security as referred to above?