

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5832/06  
by Marielle De Sarnez (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Trainees in Europe

Several million young Europeans are engaged as trainees every year (over 1.5 million in France and Germany alone). A great many of them do real jobs under cover of trainee status for periods ranging from two months to, sometimes, two years without any, or for only very low, remuneration (between 100 and 350 euros per month).

This issue affects many young people and casts doubt on the recruitment policies of firms and public bodies, which recruit unpaid trainees in preference to filling permanent posts.

It would be useful to know whether the Commission intends to put forward clear proposals for a definition of trainee status and for facilitating recognition of traineeships in the framework of its Green Paper on labour law in Europe, publication of which has been postponed until the end of 2006.

Also, could the Commission, in the framework of the communication scheduled for June 2007 following the consultation on adapting labour law to guarantee flexibility and security for all which is due to start between January and March 2007, provide assurances that the question of entry of young people into the employment market will be addressed, and indicate how it intends to do this?