

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4829/07  
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to the Commission

Subject: Modification of EU labour law

The opening-up of the labour market to the new Member States has allowed and continues to allow a significant number of workers from those countries to work elsewhere in the Union. This applies to both seasonal and permanent employment. The field most sought after for employment is agriculture, followed by health services, construction, catering, the gaming industry, services, etc. In many cases, however, pay levels are discriminatory vis-à-vis those applying to nationals of the countries concerned: for example, in Italy there is no national minimum wage, and minimum wages are set at sectoral or subsectoral level. In Germany, wages are negotiated at occupational or local level, while Spain has a minimum interprofessional wage of EUR 513 per month.

In these circumstances, a appropriate response is needed from the Member States and the Commission. Can the Commission therefore state what steps it will take to modify EU labour law and introduce a system of minimum wages, taking account of sector, activity and workers' existing skills, in order to put an end to the present discrimination between local and immigrant workers? By when does the Commission believe such measures could be in place?