

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3169/08  
by Florencio Luque Aguilar (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Unemployment in Spain

According to the conclusions of the last quarterly report on the labour market in the EU (19 May 2008), Spain comes out pretty badly with regard to the unemployment rate, and particularly that of young people.

The economic downturn affecting Spain over recent months is largely due to the sudden very sharp slowdown in the building industry, where many jobs do not require high levels of qualification. Spain is also not well positioned by comparison with its neighbours in terms of training levels and the training of young people once they have finished their studies.

1. Does the Commission think that the very high level of youth unemployment in Spain can be explained by the level of the training with which young people enter the job market on completing their education?
2. Does any correlation exist at European level between youth training levels and youth opportunities on the labour market, particularly amongst those looking for their first jobs?
3. Does the Commission possess any studies or data which show a correlation between these two variables at European level?
4. When will the Member States' data for the first quarter of 2008, which is still missing from the quarterly report, become available?