

**Question for written answer E-007127/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Emilie Turunen (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Trainees at the European Commission (II)

In its answer to my question on trainees at the European Commission (E-004003/2011), the Commission states that:

'The Commission's Directorates-General may decide to take on trainees for unpaid traineeships on the basis of a bilateral agreement between the relevant department and the candidate. This procedure makes it possible to take on a limited number of trainees who for various reasons (e.g. the length of the paid traineeships) do not wish to participate in the official programme. The length of the traineeship may be determined on the basis of the person's career.'

Could the Commission please answer the following:

- How many traineeships of this type exist every year? (A summary is sufficient.)
- What do the trainees concerned receive by way of allowances, e.g. contribution to accommodation, transport, meals, diets, etc.?
- How long does a traineeship of this kind typically last?
- What is the typical educational background of a trainee? Is he/she typically a student at bachelor or master's level, or a graduate?

Are there any internal rules in the Commission governing the recruitment of trainees using this procedure? Or does it only take place by agreements between the individual trainee and the department in question? If the latter is the case, can the Commission state where the trainees can turn in the event of problems?