

**Question for written answer E-004101/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Barry Madlener (NI)

Subject: The Commission wants the Netherlands to open its labour market fully to Romanians and Bulgarians

The European Commission wants the Netherlands to open its labour market fully to Romanians and Bulgarians. The Commission also wants there to be a minimum wage for these workers.

1. Is the Commission familiar with the article 'Netherlands must open labour market fully to Romanians and Bulgarians'¹?
2. Is the Commission aware that there are already around 300 000 Central and Eastern Europeans in the Netherlands?
3. Is the Commission aware that there are enormous problems with Central and Eastern Europeans in the Netherlands, primarily in the area of (organised) crime, nuisance, benefit dependency, etc.? In view of this situation, does the Commission agree with the Party for Freedom (PVV) that it is undesirable for the Dutch labour market to be fully opened up to even more Eastern Europeans, such as Romanians and Bulgarians, because the problems would most likely increase as a result?
4. Is the Commission aware that Romania and Bulgaria still obtain highly unfavourable scores on the corruption index of Transparency International², and in the light of that fact, does it share the view of the PVV that Romania and Bulgaria are absolutely not ready to gain full access to the Dutch labour market? If not, why not?
5. Is the Commission aware that the Netherlands already has considerable (and growing) unemployment³? Does the Commission share the view of the PVV that the arrival of Romanians and Bulgarians will lead to even greater unemployment among Dutch nationals, and that this is undesirable? If not, why not?
6. Is the Commission aware that in Romania and Bulgaria, there are more than one million Roma, that they are treated as second-class citizens, that there is high unemployment among them and that this may be why they come to the Netherlands? How can the Netherlands keep out and/or expel Romanian and Bulgarian job-seekers?

¹ http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/viyrla95mayw/nieuws/nederland_moet_arbeidsmarkt_volledig?ctx=vh6ukzb3nnt0

² <http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2011/results/>

³ <http://nos.nl/video/362088-meer-langdurig-werklozen-in-nederland.html>