

**Question for written answer E-011251/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Frieda Brepoels (Verts/ALE)**

**Subject:** Unresolved issues with serious implications for frontier workers

The European internal market, with, inter alia, free movement of persons, is undoubtedly one of the foundations of European cooperation. In practice, however, we observe that numerous borders and obstacles still exist which seriously hamper the everyday life of frontier workers, among other people. The most problems relate to pensions, taxation and social security. Powers in this field are vested in the Member States, while, pursuant to Regulation No 883/2004, the EU has the task of coordinating these various national systems. However, we observe that solutions to many problems are taking a remarkably long time to materialise.

In recent years I have repeatedly tabled questions to the Commission concerning various issues. Now I would particularly like to draw attention to the following three, which have already been causing problems for some time and with regard to which the Commission and the Member States concerned have yet to give answers to the citizens whose interests are suffering.

1. With regard to the Law on a purchasing power supplement for elderly taxpayers (cf. my questions E-008620/2011 and E-006539/2011 and correspondence Ares (2012)1353404), the European Commission announced infringement proceedings against the Netherlands on 31 May 2012. According to the most recent information, the Commission is currently finalising its position and a formal decision is expected at the beginning of 2013. However, for the estimated 282 000 people who are entitled to a Dutch pension but do not live in the Netherlands, this means that a solution for the loss of €400 per annum has already been awaited for a year and a half.
2. With regard to the solidarity contribution (cf. my questions E-001107/2012, E-009599/2011, E-8689/2010 and correspondence Ares (2012)788406), the latest information indicates that the Commission is examining the reply from the Belgian authorities.
3. Lastly, in connection with the 30% rule (cf. my questions E-000979/2012 and E-009620/2011 and correspondence Ares (2012)788406 and Ares (2012)1353404), the talks with the Dutch authorities are still going on. For a good many frontier workers, this entails a net loss of several hundred euros per month.

I would urge the Commission to state in detail, with regard to each of the above three issues, what the state of play is, what measures have been taken, what specific solution will be possible, how soon, and what possible obstacles there are.