

**Question for written answer E-000043/2013  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Emine Bozkurt (S&D)**

Subject: Use of the European Social Fund in Poland

It has been reported in the Dutch media that, in Poland, the European Social Fund (ESF), which is intended to 'enhance the knowledge and skills of employees of undertakings, particularly SMEs', is mainly being used for such large multinationals as ING, Unilever, Philips, Mercedes Benz, BMW, Renault, Heinz, EDF, Nestlé, Deutsche Bank and Pepsi Cola. In Poland these businesses have received millions from EU funds intended to promote employment in poor regions and used them inter alia to pay for courses and in-service training for managers.

Can the Commission confirm that, of the approximately €300 m in subsidies from the ESF which have so far been paid out in Poland, at least half has been spent on training for listed companies and multinationals?

Can the Commission indicate how these millions in subsidies have helped to promote employment in the European Union?

Does the Commission consider that this expenditure serves the principal objective of the ESF and accords with the rules?

If not, will the Commission take action with regard to Poland? Might it demand that the money be refunded?

And does the Commission intend to assess legislation and, if necessary, amend it?