Question for written answer E-005715/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)

Subject: Youth guarantee

At the beginning of 2012, the Commission undertook to support efforts to increase employment and reduce youth unemployment, which has now reached 55% in Spain, by reallocating funds not yet committed. In addition to this, a ‘youth guarantee’ was adopted last February by the Employment Ministers of the 27 European Union countries, the purpose of which is to ensure that, starting in 2014, all Europeans under 26 will have access to work, training or practical experience within four months of finishing their studies or of becoming unemployed.

Unfortunately, funding for this measure would come from the EU’s social and cohesion funds, as well as a new Community budget item of EUR 6 000 million for the period 2014–2020. The Commission itself labelled this amount insufficient.

Does the Commission not think it would make more sense to apply the new instrument in one payment without having to distribute it over seven years, as it is now that the aid is most needed? Does the Commission have any evidence to show that Member States are implementing the measures approved? Is the Commission going to monitor and control national programmes in any way to ensure proper use of funds coming from the EU?

We learned last week that the German and French governments are preparing a plan to combat youth unemployment in the EU. The plan – which would be implemented using the youth guarantee model and the anticipated EUR 6 000 million – aims, with participation from the European Investment Bank, to obtain EUR 60 000 million from the markets. This would be lent to companies taking part in the programme.

What is the Commission’s opinion of the new proposal?