

**Question for written answer E-006624/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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**Subject:** Measures to tackle the economic exile of young Europeans

With a youth unemployment rate of 55.7% and few opportunities to find employment in the short term, young people in Spain are increasingly forced to go abroad to find work. According to the latest ESADE InfoJobs report on the state of the Spanish job market, two thirds of people between the ages of 22 and 30 are prepared to leave Spain in order to find a job, while three quarters say that they will even work without pay. This is the generation that has the fewest prospects in our recent history despite it being highly skilled. Other peripheral countries such as Greece and Portugal are suffering the same fate as Spain: the lack of opportunities to find decent work is a real social tragedy and labour mobility is turning into forced economic exile for many young people.

In addition to the lack of adequate, ambitious mechanisms for guidance, assessment and exchanges, there are other problems, such as the failure to recognise academic or professional qualifications and the different recruitment conditions. Therefore, many Member States are signing bilateral agreements for the integration of young unemployed people into the labour market, through which they apply annual recruitment quotas and set up systems for exchanging information and experiences. Does the Commission not believe that these bilateral agreements imply that the European intermediary mechanisms such as EURES have failed? Given that 5.7 million young people under the age of 25 are out of work, does the Commission not believe that proposals such as 'Your first EURES job', which, according to estimates, could create around 5 000 jobs, are completely inadequate?

As part of the Employment Package, the Commission calls on Member States to allow for the export of unemployment benefits for jobseekers in another country for a period of up to six months.

What progress has been made in this area? What progress has been made on the other programmes to ensure the portability of social rights and facilitate voluntary mobility and the return to countries of origin? Has the Commission considered setting up a programme to support young people, especially those with very little means at their disposal, who are forced to seek work abroad?

Is the Commission not concerned about the depletion of social capital the crisis is causing in some European countries? Does the Commission intend to do anything to prevent a talent drain from the European Union?