

**Question for written answer E-006761/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: High youth unemployment and shortage of qualified workers in Europe

The current youth unemployment rate in Europe has reached unsustainable levels, surpassing 50 % in Spain and Greece.

Meanwhile, some European labour market sectors are experiencing a severe shortage of workers. For example, an estimated shortage of 700 000 qualified workers is expected by 2015 in the European information technology sector.

These figures show that the European labour market is not working.

Residence permit procedures for highly qualified workers from third countries are lengthy and complicated. Most importantly, however, useless rules and procedures block these workers' mobility within the single market.

As a result, companies in need of highly qualified staff are increasingly deciding not to invest in Europe or choosing to relocate outside the EU, with negative consequences for the European economy and labour market.

- Is the Commission currently considering an action plan to facilitate access to the EU for businesses from third countries?
- What measures will it propose to overcome this paradox in the European labour market?