

**Question for written answer E-007121/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D)

Subject: Single contract model

One of the most characteristic features of EU labour markets is a duality, namely that workers with permanent contracts who enjoy much greater job security and protection coexist with others who possess temporary contracts. However, significant differences exist between Member States, among which Spain has the highest proportion of temporary workers, with 24.9 % of its working population on temporary contracts in 2010, over 10 % more than the European average. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, a strong positive correlation can be drawn between temporary contracts and the degree to which a country's jobs are destroyed. This view is borne out by the statistics: since the start of the crisis, over 3 800 000 jobs have been destroyed in Spain, 74 % of which were held by young people under 30, the group that suffers the highest level of temporary employment across OECD member countries (61.4 % for young people under 24).

This trend is particularly worrying if we consider that labour segmentation leads to increasingly unequal access to secure living conditions, job protection, salaries and training and reduces a country's average productivity level since there are fewer incentives for workers and entrepreneurs to invest in human resources for companies and economic activities of low added value are undertaken. An entire generation is at risk of being condemned to a state of precariousness. In view of this situation, Laszló Andor, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, proposed on 13 May that Spain should consider implementing a 'single open-ended contract' to curb this high unemployment, particularly among the young, and to end segmentation in the labour market.

1. Could the Commission explain this proposal in more depth?
2. Does the Commission not think that, rather than eliminating duality in the labour market, a single contract would simply create a different kind of duality?
3. What type of single contract is the Commission considering? One that grants rights increasing in line with length of service or a single contract with a long trial period?
4. Does the Commission not think that the introduction of this type of contract in Spain could give rise to legal problems since it might be considered anti-constitutional or in breach of ILO Convention 158, which the country has ratified?