

**Question for written answer E-011209/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Intention of the northern countries to propose establishing a discriminatory regime against workers from the European South within the mobility framework

European and Greek press articles report that the College of Commissioners has been informed about the intentions of some northern countries of the EU to submit a proposal to the Commission for the adoption of restrictions (e.g. of a numerical nature) on mobility and access to EU job markets for European citizens originating from the Member States of the South. It is clear that these restrictions target people from the European South who are affected by the crisis, and whose countries are seeing the highest unemployment rates, along with recession and shrinking employment, and that any implementation of these restrictions would only intensify the geographical inequalities that already exist. Given that the Commission has placed worker mobility, among other things, at the centre of its policies, with a view to combating unemployment, strengthening competitiveness and boosting the economic development of the EU through the single market, will it say:

1. How did the above discussion start? Do these viewpoints comply with the principles, values, operational rules and future objectives of the European Union?
2. What is the Commission's position on this matter? What steps does it intend to take to safeguard European workers' rights within the EU, such as the right to freedom of movement?
3. Does it intend to proceed with recommendations aiming to remove any barriers to the free movement of workers, which could have a considerable effect on economic activity at EU level, and also on social cohesion?
4. Is it looking for a dynamic and resounding way of making clear - to all parties - the non-negotiable nature of the free and unhindered movement of EU citizens within the borders of the EU?
5. What does it have to say about the fact that proposals of this kind encourage euroscepticism in the Member States - particularly in these difficult social and economic circumstances - and work against any attempt to build a firm Political and Social Union based on solidarity?