

**Question for written answer E-011621/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Patricia van der Kammen (NI)

Subject: Follow-up question on benefit and allowance fraud in the Netherlands

On 17 June, Commissioner Andor responded¹ on behalf of the Commission to written questions concerning large-scale benefit and allowance fraud in the Netherlands.

The questions were prompted by reports² making clear that Eastern European gangs are committing large-scale benefit and allowance fraud in the Netherlands. The Dutch Secretary of State for Finance, Frans Weekers, is on record as saying that it is shocking that benefit and allowance fraud is taking place on a large scale³.

The first question to the Commission asked whether the Commission was aware of the report that Eastern Europeans are committing large-scale allowance fraud in the Netherlands, as confirmed by the Dutch Secretary of State for Finance?

The Commission's response on 17 June 2013 was to state that it had 'not received any other information about these allegations'.

According to a report of 17 May 2013 in the Dutch newspaper *Volkskrant*⁴, Commissioner Reding discussed the subject of large-scale fraud at a press conference, while she also went into the detail of the subject in an interview⁵.

This raises the following question:

How does the Commission's denial of knowledge in its response of 17 June 2013 square with the article⁴ and interview⁵ on 17 May 2013, which irrefutably demonstrate that the Commission was indeed aware of the cases of fraud?

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2013-004673&language=NL>

² http://www.rtl.nl/components/actueel/rtnieuws/2013/04_april/21/binnenland/oost-europese-bendes-fraudereren-met-toeslagen.xml

³ http://www.rtl.nl/components/actueel/rtnieuws/2013/04_april/21/binnenland/Belastingdienst_als_pinauto_maat_is_onacceptabel.xml

⁴ <http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2686/Binnenland/article/detail/3443116/2013/05/17/Bulgaren-fraude-is-geen-Europees-maar-Nederlands-probleem.dhtml>

⁵ <http://nieuwsuur.nl/onderwerp/508042-bulgaarse-fraudezaak-zelf-oplossen.html>