

**Question for written answer E-013151/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

Subject: On the sustainability of social security systems in EU countries experiencing significant emigration

The Commission recently carried out a study into the impact of the free movement of workers in the EU, also known as benefits tourism, on Member States' social security systems.

Member States which experience significant emigration by their citizens to other countries face another – much more serious – side of the same problem. Mass emigration together with a lack of immigration is damaging to a country not just because of the loss of human capital, the money, time and effort invested in the vocational training of these people. Another very serious problem associated with the phenomena of disproportionately high emigration and insufficient immigration is the risk to the sustainability of the social security systems in such countries. After all, most often it is economically active people of working age paying taxes into the national budget who are the ones emigrating. However, while the number of tax-payers is falling, there is no decline in those who at a certain point in their lives for some reason or other are dependent on these countries' social security systems.

Does the Commission not feel that it would be appropriate to carry out an evaluation of the risk to the sustainability of social security systems in EU Member States experiencing significant emigration and insufficient immigration and discuss possible means of solving these problems by cooperating with these Member States?