

**Question for written answer E-000556/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)

Subject: Use in Spain of the endowment of EUR 1 800 million for combating youth unemployment

Last June, with the aim of reducing the dramatic youth unemployment figures, the European Council approved a global plan for combating youth unemployment, which is intended to speed up the application of the Youth Employment Initiative and the Youth Guarantee and to increase the mobility of young people and the involvement of social partners. This plan, which was endowed with EUR 6 000 million, has earmarked EUR 1 800 million in the 2014-2015 period for Spain, which has the second-highest youth unemployment rate in Europe (57.7 %) after Greece.

However, virtually all of this money has to be paid in advance by Member States, which means that the States which have been hardest hit by the economic crisis, such as Spain, have to find a solution to prevent the money that is paid in advance to fund the plan from being recorded as a deficit. Otherwise, in the worst case scenario, this could lead to an imbalance that could cause the suspension of regional funds in compliance with the new macroeconomic conditionality provisions.

The Spanish Government, which submitted its implementation plan for the EUR 1 800 million in December, announced last week that the money is intended for young people under the age of 25 who register on a platform (which has not yet been designed) and who meet certain requirements (which have not yet been defined), despite the fact that unemployment levels are also high among many young Spaniards aged between 25 and 30.

In addition, the government announced that it will boost the bonus for businesses which take on young people, reduce quotas for self-employed young people and improve cooperation with private employment agencies, among other measures.

- When will the Commission give the final approval to the Spanish plan that was submitted in December?
- When will the funds start to reach Spain?
- How will the Commission verify that the EUR 1 800 million is not simply used to offset the cost that some of the measures to be implemented will entail for the social security funds?
- What kind of aid is the Commission providing for those young people aged between 25 and 30 who cannot benefit from the Youth Guarantee?