

**Question for written answer E-002458/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Dismissals at the national agency for Erasmus+

The 2013 work programme of the national agency for the Lifelong Learning Programme states that 'The much wider range of Erasmus for All will imply more technical and human resources (...) and also an internal structure capable of responding to the new demands' (p. 3). This assessment, which was validated and signed by the Portuguese Secretary of State for Employment, Pedro Martins, indicates the need for a 'smooth transition' between the national agency for the management of the Lifelong Learning Programme and the agency (or agencies) set up to implement the Erasmus+ programme from January 2014, as well as the need to boost the human and technical resources available. Resolution No 15/2014 of the Portuguese Council of Ministers created two structures to manage the new Erasmus+ programme: the Erasmus+ Education and Training Agency and the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Agency. According to our information, the national agency for the management of the Lifelong Learning Programme, which formally ceased operating in December 2013, has a staff of 46 in various types of employment, many of whom have been working without a contract since January 2014. The above resolution of the Portuguese Council of Ministers decided that the new Erasmus+ Education and Training Agency would have a staff of 53, of whom only 27 would have contracts (following a competition), with the remainder coming from civil service mobility programmes. This means that some of the present staff of 46 – who have significant experience of work within the agencies – may simply no longer be employed. It was also decided that wages would be in line with the first salary grade in the corresponding category, which would mean that several members of staff with many years of experience in the agency (some of them with 14 years' experience) would have to return to the first career step, with the corresponding cuts to their wages.

1. What information does the Commission have on this matter?
2. Does it believe that the creation of a 'new' structure will guarantee that the team will have the necessary administrative and other skills to deal with the wider range of candidates in the Erasmus+ programme and its management?
3. Does it consider it important to retain staff with experience of working in the agency, with the rights proportionate to their years of service?