

**Question for written answer E-003481/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Cross-border problems in Campo de Gibraltar: infringement of workers' rights and assessment of noncompliance with the recommendations

The border policy applied by the Spanish government over the last few months has been seriously obstructing the passage of people and vehicles at the border crossing between Gibraltar and the town of La Línea (Cadiz, Spain). This situation is having a considerable negative impact on the living and working conditions of thousands of Community workers who live and work either side of the border and are having to endure delays of up to four hours, under all weather conditions, just to be able to get to work or return home.

The situation is having a similarly negative impact on the local economy, which relies heavily on trade, and is endangering many of the jobs generated by this activity. Trade union and business organisations on both sides of the frontier between La Línea and Gibraltar have organised themselves through a 'Cross-border Committee', representatives of which recently visited this Parliament and expressed to us their unease and concern at the situation.

On 25 September 2013, a team of experts from the Commission visited the border crossing to assess the checks being made on people and goods by the authorities on both sides. As a result of this visit, they forwarded a series of recommendations to the respective governments, detailing measures which could improve the functioning of the border crossing.

The situation remains unchanged to date, with no improvement in traffic delays, and the recommendations do not seem to have had any effect in terms of solving the problem.

1. How does the Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion assess the negative impact on the right to free movement of workers within the EU of the situation at this border crossing?
2. What steps has it taken to does it plan to take to ensure that these Community citizens are able to exercise their due rights?
3. To what extent does the Commission consider that the recommendations made by the Commission to the respective governments have been complied with?