

**Question for written answer E-004743/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)**

**Subject:** Malpractice in connection with the hiring of disability assessment and guidance team members in Valencia

The situation of people with disabilities in the Autonomous Community of Valencia has become extremely precarious in the wake of substantial public spending cuts implemented by the regional government, which has thus abandoned to their fate thousands of people who need treatment, care and public services if they are to exercise their rights as citizens.

Uniquely in Spain, the Valencia Regional Government has made an unannounced decision to cut spending on disability benefits directly. As a result, of the 12 057 people in the region with non-permanent disability status, 5 252 have now been reassessed as having a lower degree of disability than previously, a twofold increase over last year. What is more, the regional government failed to ensure that the public was properly informed about the reassessments or that the process was sufficiently transparent. The reassessments appear to show that some people with disabilities in the Valencia region have been miraculously cured, and they have conveniently coincided with drastic public spending cuts affecting the Autonomous Community's health system.

The relevant decisions were made by an assessment and guidance team hired by SERVEF (the Regional Service for Training and Employment) on the basis of a selection procedure that has been criticised for its lack of transparency. According to various sources, SERVEF hired the team members from a pool of local development officers, who do not necessarily have the training required to accurately assess degrees of disability, particularly mental disability. This malpractice in the hiring process has given rise to assessments which are clearly designed to serve the regional government's economic interests rather than those of the people being assessed. In question P-008333/2013 I brought an alleged case of the embezzlement of EU funds by SERVEF to the Commission's attention; now, SERVEF is being accused of even more serious forms of malpractice.

Does the Commission agree that disability assessment and guidance teams must have suitable qualifications?

Has it been informed that SERVEF may have been guilty of malpractice in hiring local development officers? Does the Commission intend to launch an investigation into the allegations levelled against SERVEF?