

**Question for written answer E-005753/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Herbert Reul (PPE)**

Subject: Funds for combating youth unemployment

The European Council of 7 and 8 February 2013 proposed the Youth Employment Initiative as a means of combating excessively high unemployment among young people. Funding of approximately EUR 6 billion is to be made available for the initiative between 2014 and 2020. EUR 3 billion of this will come from a specially created budget line for youth employment, with a further EUR 3 billion, at least, from the European Social Fund.

It is envisaged that the Youth Employment Initiative will complement other, national-level, projects: these include projects supported by the European Social Fund helping to introduce or implement the Youth Guarantee system through, for example, reform of relevant institutions and services.

Given the urgent need to reduce unemployment among young people and to afford them the opportunities and prospects that work can offer, a number of questions arise.

What is the procedure for drawing on the funding that has been earmarked? Who is eligible to apply?

How many applications have so far been submitted?

How many applications have already been approved?