

**Question for written answer E-001603/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Unemployed defrauded by recruitment agencies in EU Member States

Thousands of unemployed people from Greece and other countries seeking work abroad are being defrauded and exploited by recruitment agencies. According to complaints substantiated by journalistic investigation, many of the approximately 55 000 recruitment agencies seeking a supply of cheap labour for businesses in EU Member States are publishing misleading advertisements appearing to offer working conditions favourable enough to attract job seekers from countries with high unemployment, only for them to discover on arrival that, under the contracts they are expected to sign, they will be paid a pittance, with no remuneration for overtime and no entitlement to redress in the event of dismissal, as well as being obliged to accept parlous living conditions. Many find themselves forced to leave after a few months without being paid for their work.

In view of this:

What means does the Commission have at its disposal to keep tabs on the companies concerned?
What protection is given to workers and what measures are being taken in response to the exploitation of workers moving within the EU?

What penalties may be incurred by recruitment agencies and employers for misleading migrant workers with regard to pay and working conditions, particularly in the case of EU-subsidised jobs?