

**Question for written answer E-002138/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: European Social Fund (ESF) - April 2018?

According to available information from the Commission's reply last year on the state of implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF) in the 2014 -2020 period for the Republic of Croatia, its total value amounts to EUR 1.849 billion, of which EUR 1.582 billion was financed from the EU budget, including EUR 66 million from the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). Furthermore, according to available information, currently only 3% of ESF resources have been spent.

- 1) How does the Commission assess the state of play of the implementation process of the European Social Fund (ESF) for the 2014 -2020 period in the Republic of Croatia?
- 2) In the Commission's view, what is the cause of this low utilisation of funds, which stands at just 3%, below the utilisation rate of other programmes?