

**Question for written answer E-005701/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Michela Giuffrida (S&D)**

Subject: NEET in Sicily and policies to support youth employment

Even in 2017, Sicily was bottom of the league in Europe for the number of people aged between 18 and 24 years not in education or working, or 'NEET'. The figure (39.6%) is the worst in continental Europe. This emerges from the 'Regional Yearbook 2018' published recently by Eurostat. Of the 11 regions with the highest rate of NEET in Europe, four of them are in the Mezzogiorno region: in addition to Sicily and Campania (38.6%), there is also Puglia (36.4%) and Calabria (36%).

In the first quarter of 2018, the percentage of young people NEET aged between 15 and 24 years in the EU was estimated to be 10.6% (similar to the first quarter of 2008).

The commission must act accordingly. If, on the one hand, it issues concrete proposals, such as the European Solidarity Corps and the Youth Employment Initiative, it cannot, at the same time, seek to cut resources for political cohesion funding by 10% in the next MMF.

In view of the above, can the Commission explain how it intends to:

1. Combine resources for political cohesion and those aimed at tackling youth unemployment?
2. Implement policies specifically aimed at supporting youth employment in regions such as Sicily, where the rate of youth unemployment is one of the highest in Europe?