

**Question for written answer E-004066/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)**

Subject: Penalising companies for laying off older workers

Promoting the employability of workers throughout their working lives is one of the key requirements for a sustainable economy in our ageing societies. Different countries adopt different policies to encourage companies to retain older workers. One of these is by introducing penalties for companies that lay off older workers. However, the recent report from the OECD, 'Working Better with Age', states that such policies can in fact be highly counterproductive and companies may seek to avoid these penalties through various early retirement arrangements.

1. Does the Commission have any data on this matter?
2. Can it comment on whether penalising companies for laying off older workers is part of EU policy on maintaining older workers in the labour market?