Question for written answer E-002835/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Guido Reil

Subject: SURE

On 2 April 2020, the Commission proposed a new regulation introducing a temporary European loan scheme to fund short-time work (SURE).

Under the scheme, the Member States would be able to apply to the Commission for a loan if they were overwhelmed by the cost of state-funded short-time work. In order to finance this system, the Commission intends to buy bonds on the capital market. The total amount envisaged in the draft is EUR 100 billion. The Member States would guarantee the bonds. The Member States would have to set up provisions to be paid into a dedicated fund for 25% of all the bonds.

According to the Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, those Member States which do not currently have a short-time work programme would now have to set one up. The Member States concerned are Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Malta and Slovakia. 'This would have the advantage of coordinating our socio-political response during the crisis' [1] , said the Commissioner.

1. Does the Commission consider the question of whether or not a Member State introduces short-time work to be a decision which needs to be taken at national level?

2. If so, what is the Commission's assessment of this statement by the Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights?

[1] According to Oliver Grimm, 'Von der Leyen wants to make short-time work the norm throughout Europe' (Die Presse, 2 April 2020).