

**Question for written answer E-004612/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)

Subject: Educational services market

Hundreds of teachers in Cyprus are employed by the state as service providers under fixed-term contracts. These teachers carry out work of the same value as permanent teachers but do not receive the same pay, nor do they have the same labour rights. Their salaries are 35% lower, they are not entitled to unemployment allowances or paid leave and they themselves pay their social security contributions. In addition, although their work is assessed by the Ministry of Education and there is a clear employer/employee relationship, they are nevertheless wrongly classified as self-employed. The Cyprus Industrial Disputes Tribunal has previously held that it is unlawful for them to be treated as self-employed.

Using the device of the services market in public education leads to the deregulation of labour relations, consolidating the establishment by the state of sham self-employment and circumventing Directive 1999/70/EC, which aims to achieve equal treatment for fixed-term workers and to eliminate discrimination against them.

In light of this:

What steps will the Commission take to put a stop to the unlawful classification of teachers as 'self-employed' and to ensure that they are employed as salaried workers, in so far as there is a clear employer/employee relationship?