

**Question for written answer E-004150/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Assessment of the SURE instrument

According to the European Court of Auditors, it is impossible to state whether the SURE funding worth EUR 100 billion actually saved any jobs. In its opinion, this is due not only to the way in which the European Commission designed this instrument, but also to the lack of comprehensive Member State data.

In the same report, the Court of Auditors emphasises that crisis response instruments aimed at job retention are typically prone to misuse. It states that in the case of SURE, fraud or irregularities were detected in 18 out of 19 Member States, and this led to action to recover improperly used funds in 13 Member States. It furthermore points out that the Commission has not undertaken any investigations on the basis that this is the responsibility of the EU Member States.

The Court of Auditors is critical of the fact that the Commission has not evaluated the SURE instrument. In the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the Commission is committed to evaluate the experience of SURE.¹

1. When will the Commission carry out a thorough evaluation of the SURE instrument?
2. How will the Commission assess the added value of SURE and the SURE-backed national measures?
3. How will the Commission assess how effective the SURE framework was and is in limiting the risk of irregularities and fraud?

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¹ European Court of Auditors, Special report 28/2022, Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE), 14 December 2022, p. 2, p. 5-6, p. 26-31, p. 34-37; European Commission has not yet accurately demonstrated impact of SURE on safeguarding employment during Covid-19, according to European Court of Auditors, Agence Europe, 15 December 2022.