

**Question for written answer E-000655/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Sara Cerdas (S&D)**

**Subject:** Addressing the challenges and difficulties faced by South Africans in combating the unemployment crisis

In the third quarter of 2022, 32.9% of South Africans were unemployed; this figure is higher still if we take the inactive population into account. Despite efforts and various initiatives to combat the unemployment crisis, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, investment in this region has been insufficient.

1. How can the European Commission strengthen its ties with South Africa, in particular through support for the implementation of employment and entrepreneurship programmes?
2. Is the Commission planning to boost synergies – for example, through exchange programmes – to enable the development of new skills and the sharing of good practices?

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