

**Question for written answer E-001933/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Katrin Langensiepen** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Adequate working conditions for primarily Eastern European guest workers in the EU

In 2021, the German Federal Labour Court ruled that carers who provide elderly care as guest workers are entitled to receive the minimum wage specified by the German Minimum Wage Act and to have adequate working conditions, as specified in German employment law. According to a 2021 JRC report, labour mobility can help the EU to meet the increasing demand for workers in the healthcare sector. Europe's changing demographics, and specifically the increase in the number of elderly people, are driving growing demand for skilled workers. Most of the people applying to work in this sector are Eastern European workers applying through agencies. However, estimates indicate that nearly 600 000 people are working illegally in Germany's nursing and elderly care sector. The vast majority of them are Eastern European guest workers, and almost 95 % are women.

Given that the working conditions of Eastern European guest workers have not changed significantly, cases of illegal employment have continued to rise, and there is no EU-wide regulation to address these problems, how does the Commission plan to address the increased demand for workers through internal mobility and how will it ensure adequate working conditions for primarily Eastern European guest workers throughout the EU, including discrimination-free working time rules and minimum wage benefits?

Will there be an EU regulation?

Submitted: 14.6.2023