

**Question for oral answer O-000320/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Freedom of movement for workers within the European Union

Currently, certain EU Member States impose labour restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian citizens. At the end of 2011 the second stage of the transitional period for the two countries expires. From 2011 onwards, in order for a Member State to decide to extend the measures for two more years, it must provide evidence of severe disturbances in its labour market.

For the only two countries that still face transitional barriers within the EU the data shows that: at the end of 2010, Romanian and Bulgarian nationals residing in the EU-25 represent 0.6% of the EU's total population. Between 2004 and 2009, Romanian and Bulgarian workers increased the GDP of Spain and Italy by 1.7% and 1.3%.

1. Could the Commission explain the conditions under which a Member State can continue restricting labour market access in the third phase pursuant to the applicable Treaty provisions, accession agreements and existing case law of the Court of Justice?
2. Could the Commission provide a clear definition as to what the term 'severe disturbances in labour markets' implies?
3. Could the Commission draw up and present a clear evaluation of the methodology that Member States have to use in order to prove that severe disturbances in their labour markets are caused by an influx of Romanian and Bulgarian workers?
4. Could the Commission propose a set of comprehensible indicators for the assessment of requests with respect to prolonging or reintroducing the transitional arrangements by Member States? It is of the utmost importance that these criteria be clearly and transparently communicated and announced to the public. Only then the Commission can secure a plain and visible process for future Member States which will go through the procedure.

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