

**Question for written answer P-004430/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Alejandro Cercas (S&D)

Subject: Spanish public health cuts

The EU is promoting many initiatives to support training, employment and inclusion of young people in the labour market, in order to prevent the millions of young people currently unemployed in Europe from becoming a lost generation. Spain is one of the countries most affected by youth unemployment, with 51.4% of those economically active being unemployed, while reforms to the labour market, education and health in the country are aimed at reducing their rights and guarantees, as well as any public support to allow them to continue their education and have access to health care.

On 20 April 2012, the Spanish Government approved an Executive Order for urgent measures to ensure the sustainability of the national health system and to improve the quality and safety of what it does, putting an end to the principle of universality and equality of treatment in the provision of health care that has been in force in the country since 1983.

The reform will have a real impact, which will be especially serious for the most vulnerable groups, such as immigrants, pensioners and young people, since it will reduce their health care entitlements and guarantees enshrined in Article 43 of the Spanish Constitution. Of particular note is the impact on young people over 26 who are still studying or who are registered as unemployed: they will be excluded as beneficiaries since, if they are not in work or have not worked previously, the health system will deny them cover unless they pay for their health care.

Is the Commission aware of this reform and its impact on the rights and guarantees of citizens resident in Spain, and the fact that it is being carried out allegedly because of the need to meet the deficit reduction targets imposed by the Commission? Does this measure not threaten initiatives such as 'Youth on the Move', the 'Youth Opportunities Initiative' and the recently published 'Towards a job-rich recovery'? Does the Commission intend to take action so that the millions of unemployed young people in Spain do not continue to lose rights?