

**Question for written answer P-003479/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Frédéric Daerden (S&D)

Subject: Social dumping between Member States at the expense of workers

At the end of January 2013, thousands of European workers protested in Brussels against the social dumping of posted workers, demanding better protection for workers posted for a limited period to a Member State, other than that in which they normally work, to perform a specific service.

Recent official statements by the Belgian authorities have stressed the scale of this phenomenon of social dumping, which represents the exploitation of posted workers for intolerable pay and conditions, and thus a failure to comply with the conditions of competition.

1. Does the Commission not consider that this situation – in particular the existence of 'letter box' companies, fictitious sub-contractors set up for the purpose of evading the rules, starvation wages and deplorable working conditions – should be subject if not to penalties, then at least to checks by the Commission, given that it violates a large number of existing laws both on competition and on working conditions?
2. Does the Commission consider that the competitiveness of a Member State may be achieved by social dumping at the expense of other Member States, with disastrous consequences for employment?
3. Does the Commission consider that the legislative proposal it submitted in 2012, seeking to clarify Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers, will be sufficient to put an end to this situation by enacting clearer rules, as well as instituting checks and penalties, to prevent the opening of borders becoming an excuse for the introduction and spread of deplorable and illegal working conditions in some Member States at the expense of Member States which have legislation respecting the elementary rights and dignity of workers?