

**Question for written answer P-007338/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Tarja Cronberg (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Acute need of funding to combat youth unemployment

There has been a drastic rise in youth unemployment, particularly in the countries hit by the economic crisis. It threatens to exclude a whole generation from working life and from society. In Greece and Spain, for example, every second young person has no job or place on a training course. In total over 7.5 million young people are not in employment or training.

This situation, with its impact on the rights of young people, is exacerbated by cuts to both training and social security, partly owing to the stringent terms of the bailouts. At the same time the costs of unemployment are putting an even greater strain on the economies of the crisis-hit countries.

As part of the solution the Commission has proposed using the structural funds to create jobs for young people. In addition, EUR 6 billion have been earmarked for the Youth Guarantee for the years 2014-2020.

However, making EU funds available often takes a regrettably long time, sometimes even years. The application procedure is often complicated. Given the severity of the unemployment crisis, it ought to be possible to obtain funding much more quickly.

How does the Commission propose to ensure that the funding under the Youth Guarantee and the funds earmarked for promoting youth employment through the structural funds are made available as quickly as possible?