

**Question for written answer P-001552/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Sandra Petrović Jakovina (S&D)**

Subject: Results of the referendum in Switzerland

The referendum held recently in Switzerland resulted in 50.3% of Swiss voters declaring themselves in favour of implementing annual quotas for workers from all EU Member States.

This issue is of great importance for Croatia, particularly given that, as the EU's newest Member State, it has not yet even started to apply the principle of the free movement of persons, which implies the right of establishment in another Member State for the purposes of employment in that Member State. The other issue raised is that of discrimination between Member States and their citizens; in this particular case, the different treatment of Croatian citizens.

The EU and Switzerland were on the point of signing the protocol to the agreement on the free movement of persons which would extend the existing EU-Swiss agreements to Croatia.

It should be emphasised that Switzerland undertook obligations under international law. The current agreement on the free movement of persons and goods in force between the EU and Switzerland is called into question as discrimination between Member States is contrary to its provisions, since the free movement of persons, the freedom to provide services and the free movement of capital all form part of the common market.

In view of the above, the result of the referendum is not only incompatible with a number of existing EU-Swiss agreements, but also jeopardises the extension of the aforementioned agreement on the free movement of persons to Croatian citizens. It may ultimately result in Croatian citizens being left out of the annual quotas altogether.

Without questioning the mutually beneficial relations between the EU and Switzerland, the Union should not allow for discriminatory treatment against any of its citizens.

At the most recent meeting of the Council, the Member States declared that they would not allow for discrimination against Croatian citizens in terms of working in Switzerland.

In view of the result of the referendum and its implications on the above-mentioned agreement, what action does the Commission intend to take, and within what time frame, to ensure that there is no discrimination against Croatian citizens, particularly as regards employment, and to ensure the uniform application of all above-mentioned freedoms – which represent the very foundations of the Union – to all EU citizens.