

**Question for written answer P-003369/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz (PPE)**

Subject: European Social Fund Plus

The new European Social Fund Plus is intended to focus on investment in people and support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. It will be a flexible and simpler version of the current European Social Fund, combining several existing funds and programmes, including the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). Combining the funds should lead to more integrated and better targeted support in response to social challenges and problems in the labour market. The current budget for the YEI is EUR 8.8 billion for the period 2014-2020, of which EUR 4.4 billion comes from a dedicated youth employment budget line and the other EUR 4.4 billion from the national allocations under the ESF. Under the new fund, Member States with high rates of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) will have to allocate at least 10% of ESF+ funds to promote employment for young people.

- 1) Will combining the budgets of different programmes mean more funds are available to support NEETs?
- 2) Will there be changes to the funding structure for the Youth Employment Initiative?