

**Priority question for written answer P-004901/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Siestanomics: the staggering, mind-boggling number of available, but non-job-seeking workers in Italy

According to recent Eurostat data¹, the percentage of available workers who are not currently seeking a job in Italy is 11.5 %. This is more than double the rate of the second-worst country, and triple the EU average. We had predicted this, since the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) programme rewards Member States for not 'activating' their unemployed people. Italy has received EUR 27.438 billion from the scheme, approximately 40 % of the total SURE envelope, and was able to save EUR 2.835 billion in interest payments this way².

1. Does the Commission agree that SURE has created incentives for Member States not to 'activate' their unemployed work force?
2. How will it make sure that Italy's high unemployment, including it's ridiculously high number of non-working available workers, is substantially lowered?
3. Why does the EU need more non-EU migrants when unemployment remains extremely high in some southern European Member States?

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/1da175e3-5f30-4745-ad39-e3ae6cc13d?lang=en>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-001550_EN.html