

**Question for written answer E-008086/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Gabriele Zimmer (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Compulsory early retirement for older jobseekers in Germany

In 2012, the Commission published a White Paper on pensions. In its 2014-2015 country-specific recommendations, the Commission urged Germany to make its public pensions system more sustainable by creating incentives to retire later.

Section 12a of Book II of the Social Security Code (SGB II) makes it easier to force persons aged 63 or over who are in receipt of the jobseeker's allowance (Arbeitslosengeld II) into early retirement. Requests for early retirement may be submitted by job centres without the consent of the individuals concerned, who then face significant cuts in their monthly pension entitlements. Job centres also stop helping the individuals concerned to find work.

1. To what extent does the Commission think Germany's rules on compulsory early retirement for older jobseekers are compatible with the EU's goal of ensuring that public pension systems remain sustainable?
2. Does the Commission not agree that Germany's system is potentially discriminatory on the basis of social background and age?
3. Does the Commission agree that the large number of persons in receipt of the jobseeker's allowance taking early retirement is likely to contribute to rising poverty levels among the elderly?