

**Question for written answer E-007248/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Measures to support Member States with long-term and youth unemployment rates above the Eurozone average

According to Eurostat, the long-term and youth unemployment rates in at least ten Member States are above the Eurozone averages. In seven countries the long-term unemployment rate (as a percentage of total unemployment) exceeds that of the Eurozone average (49.7 %) by 4 % to 23 %, indicating a potential permanent trend. In reaction to these tendencies, the Greek Alternate Minister of Labour, Ms Antonopoulou, and the Luxembourgish Minister of Labour, Mr Schmit, suggested the following measures during a meeting of Parliament's Committee on Employment on 30 August 2017:

- exempting from the EU Stability and Growth Pact the financial resources allocated to programmes in support of the unemployed, mainly through active labour market policies including job creation in countries with unemployment rates above the Eurozone average, as an investment in human capital sustaining potential growth;
- attributing at least 5 % of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) to such programmes, with the possibility of the contribution exceeding, if necessary, the limit of 50 % of the total required, owing to the exceptional disadvantage these countries face.

Taking into account that these proposals are supported by several countries (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Slovenia) and MEPs, and that these questions will be addressed to Mr Juncker and the competent Commissioners, what would the Commission envisage doing to promote dialogue and take action in this direction?

Supporters¹

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL) and Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL).