

**Question for oral answer O-000140/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Respecting the fundamental right of free movement for Romania and Bulgaria

One of the European Union's most important achievements is the right to freedom of movement. The strength of the Union is represented by Member States which are fully committed to fulfilling their engagements and respecting fundamental EU rights. The completion of the EU Single Market is a guiding principle which embodies the political and socio-economic philosophy of the European structure. The free movement of people, labour, capital, services and goods is guaranteed by the treaties, since these five rights are fundamental to the completion of the Single Market. These freedoms cannot be separated, nor individually revised.

On 1 January 2014, temporary restrictions on the free movement of Romanian and Bulgarian workers will be lifted. However, there is a debate in some Member States regarding the possibility of extending these restrictions. The Member States which manifested deep concerns and publically raised the question of maintaining restrictions for Romania and Bulgaria failed to provide any data to support their argument. One of the strongest voices in this regard is the UK. The completion of the EU Single Market through respect for the fundamental right of free movement comes with certain obligations. Member States cannot simply pursue and enjoy the benefits of the Single Market while neglecting their responsibilities. Current European legislation has safeguards to prevent imbalances and the abuse of membership rights, even though there is no place within the scope of this legislation for new measures.

In the light of the above, could the Commission respond to the following:

1. What measures are envisaged for preventing Member States from breaching the fundamental rights of the EU, and discriminating against Romania and Bulgaria, following Prime Minister Cameron's article in the *Financial Times*?
2. Does the Commission believe that further EU integration is possible at a time when the mutual respect and recognition of membership rights are endangered, following the recent decision by the British Government to cease the granting of loans to Romanian and Bulgarian students?

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