

**Question for written answer E-015771/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Self-employed people

Despite the apparent ubiquity of self-employed workers, there is great confusion over the real extent of this kind of work. National definitions differ, which makes a global analysis of self-employment in Europe and the specific problems associated with it – from employment protection to access to finance – difficult.

EU legislation, for its part, not only does not clearly differentiate between self-employment and paid employment disguised as such, but it frequently confuses the self-employed with entrepreneurs, even though this vague term encompasses a wide variety of management and organisational roles which do not necessarily match that of the self-employed worker.

What is the Commission's definition of a self-employed worker as opposed to a 'fake' self-employed person?

In what areas of EU labour legislation, such as health and safety at work or access to vocational training, does it consider self-employed persons should receive the same rights and protection as employees?

Similarly, does it believe that it should provide separately for the self-employed in its policies – such as credit programmes – in support of businesses and entrepreneurs?