

**Question for written answer E-015052/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Neoklis Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Measures to halt the brain drain

The latest European Parliament study (October 2015) entitled 'Portugal: Social Situation and Employment Situation in a Post-Programme Country', drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, shows that the number of Portuguese who decided to emigrate permanently more than doubled from 20 357 in 2007 to 49 572 in 2014, while unemployment rose from 8.0 % (2007) to 11.9 % (second quarter of 2015). Most of these economic migrants are young people who are well educated and highly qualified.

Similar trends can be observed in Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Spain. All of these countries have implemented, or are implementing, mandatory economic reforms, whether or not imposed under a memorandum. However, they are all characterised by harsh neoliberal austerity policies undermining completely the domestic employment market, resulting in job losses and hastening economic stagnation and decline.

How does the Commission intend to halt the resulting brain drain in these countries and encourage the return of young economic migrants, thereby generating new jobs and encouraging, youth entrepreneurship, research and innovation?