

**Question for written answer E-015673/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D)

Subject: Special investment plan for areas with high unemployment

According to Eurostat, in 2014 there were eight EU countries with unemployment rates ranging from 14% and 38.4%, while 63 regions in seven countries had an unemployment rate of between 2.5% and 4.9%. Furthermore, seven areas in the EU have unemployment rates exceeding 30%, such as Talavera de la Reina, or the Bay of Cadiz, with 39.49%.

These regions and areas find it harder than most to access public funding owing to their lack of attractiveness for private investment, an absence of social cohesion or geographical difficulties. They also face additional difficulties in accessing financing from EU programmes and instruments owing to a lack of capacity.

In accordance with Articles 3, 148 and 174 of the TFEU and given the scope of the ESF and Social Investment Package, does the Commission consider that a special investment plan is needed for these areas?