

**Question for written answer E-015401/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Depletion of EU funding for job creation programmes after 2016

According to the Commission's latest economic forecasts (for autumn 2015) and those of the OECD and IMF, unemployment in Greece is set to remain at record levels, that is to say 25.8% in 2016, dipping slightly to 24.4 % in 2017.

Despite a number of specific EU initiatives supported by the European Parliament (resolution P8\_TA (2015) 0332), funding for job creation programmes benefiting the unemployed will have been used up by the beginning of 2017. Of the EUR 1.4 billion earmarked for the sectoral operational programme for the development of human resources education and lifelong learning, EUR 950 million had been spoken for by initiatives projected and launched to date, leaving EUR 450 million for the remainder of the period 2014-2020.

The Greek Ministry for Employment has announced that the last programmes, for which the remaining ECB funding has been earmarked, will be launched in 2016, leaving nothing left over for the period 2017-2020.

In view of this:

Is the Commission in a position to meet this shortfall, given that unemployment in Greece is expected to be over twice the EU average?

Can additional funding to combat unemployment be provided from the updated EU budget for 2016?

What view does it take of the fact that unemployment more than tripled (from 8.9 % to 27.5%) between 2007 and 2013, despite a take-up rate of over 90 % of available funding?