

Question for written answer E-014726/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Auke Zijlstra (ENF)

Subject: UK's demand for restrictions on benefits payable to immigrants

In response to the UK's plan to deny EU citizens who migrate to the UK for purposes of employment any right to draw benefit or to receive other social security payments (for housing, for example) and any entitlement to working tax credits for the first four years of residence in the UK, the Commission has stated that this is 'highly problematic', because it would conflict with the principle of the free movement of persons.

Does the Commission agree that labour migration cannot be an end in itself but should lead to better distribution of employment in the Member States rather than to increased benefit payments?

Does the Commission expect that the position adopted by the UK Prime Minister will restrict labour migration between the EU Member States?

If so, does the Commission perceive any link between the readiness to work in another Member State and the level of benefits in the Member State to which migrants move for employment purposes, and has any research into the subject been conducted?