

**Question for written answer E-014596/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

Subject: Unemployment Benefit

Cyprus seems to be the country with the shortest unemployment benefit duration. In particular, the Cypriot state pays unemployment benefit for 156 working days, provided that the concerned citizen has been insured for at least 26 weeks on the day they become unemployed.

In view of the fact that Cyprus has been experiencing – especially since 2011 – an unprecedented wave of unemployment, the aforementioned duration is deemed anachronistic. Indeed, it was set by taking into account earlier conditions, when it was possible to re-enter the job market within 6 months.

Citizens of other European countries, with lower unemployment rates, enjoy more favourable unemployment benefit arrangements; in fact, a terminated employee may receive unemployment benefit for as much as three or even four years after their termination of employment.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- Given that it is aware of the situation described above, does it intend to take any specific measures in order to fully harmonise the legislative regulations of Member States and to provide the same protection to all European citizens?
- How can the abovementioned legislative regulation gap between EU countries be bridged?