

**Question for written answer E-014685/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Potential misappropriation of funds from the European Social Fund (ESF)

A teachers' association has reported a case of potential misappropriation of ESF funds which were meant to be used to subsidise vocational courses for the unemployed by 80% in the Canary Islands. The rules on the ESF funding for these courses stipulate that the teaching staff are to receive 80% of the overall amount allocated for the courses. According to the teachers' association, this is not so 99% of the time as the companies providing the courses have forced teachers into only being paid for their classroom hours, and not for preparing classes or assessing and advising students. These teachers are therefore receiving much less than the rate of pay set in the rules. The association claims that these companies are pocketing the rest of the money by using a system whereby company A receives the funding and then pays company B the 80% of the cost of the courses (meaning that everything is above board legally), but company B then pays the teachers a lot less and keeps the difference. In almost all the cases, there are collusions of interests or family ties between companies A and B. Can the Commission therefore state:

Whether it will investigate this case to establish whether ESF funding intended for courses for the unemployed is being misappropriated in the Canary Islands?

Whether it knows of any other such cases that have occurred in Spain?