

Question for written answer E-001632/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
Catherine Griset (PfE)

Subject: Improving the quality and conditions of traineeships in Europe

Traineeships enable young people to gain practical and professional experience, and make it easier for them to access the job market. However, they must not be used to disguise regular employment relationships.

To this end, France has laid down two rules:

- there must be a written agreement that prevents abuse by laying down the traineeship conditions, and
- there is a ban on paying trainees any wages or allowances, except for traineeships that last more than 2 months in the same academic or school year.

However, in March 2024, the Commission proposed a directive on traineeships¹ that calls into question this ban.

1. Can the Commission ensure that Member States allocate the necessary resources to their labour inspection authorities to enable them to identify and penalise employers who hire trainees instead of regular employees, or exploit illegal workers declared falsely as trainees?
2. Are there any plans to introduce incentives to encourage companies not to reduce the number of trainees they take on because they cannot afford to pay them?
3. Finally, will it encourage Member States to clarify the status of training supervisors to allow their working hours to be adapted, but also to encourage older people to return to companies to train trainees?

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¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52024PC0132>