

**Question for written answer E-002285/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Contribution reductions provided for in the Cohesion Decree for employment of young people and women

The Cohesion Decree, converted with amendments by Law No 5 of 4 July 2024, introduced significant reductions in contributions for employers who hire under-35s and disadvantaged women on a permanent basis. These bonuses, respectively governed by Articles 22 and 23 of the decree, provide for a reduction of employers' social security contributions by 100 % for a maximum period of 24 months. However, although the measure is effective as a means to promote employment, the reductions have yet to take effect.

The application of the reductions is subject to the adoption of certain key measures, including authorisation by the European Commission. What is more, a circular from the National Institute of Social Security (INPS) is expected to clarify the technical details on the use of bonuses.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission swiftly grant the requisite authorisation to bring the reductions into effect?
2. What other measures is the Commission considering taking to support youth and female employment, particularly in the most economically disadvantaged regions?

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