

Question for written answer E-002443/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Flemish job bonus scheme for cross-border workers

In 2022, the Flemish Government adopted an employment incentive scheme: the job bonus. The scheme provides a financial incentive to encourage unemployed people to look for work and low-paid workers to continue working.

For many citizens living in border regions, being able to work across borders is important. Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 provides for non-discriminatory cross-border employment throughout the EU. It is not clear, however, whether the Flemish job bonus is also available to cross-border workers who work in Belgium but come from another Member State, and live in a neighbouring Member State, as the job bonus is granted on the basis of place of residence. There may therefore be discrimination based on nationality, which is in breach of EU rules.

The undersigned MEPs tabled a question previously and the Commission received a complaint about the job bonus on 20 December 2022, but matters are still unclear.

1. What is the outcome of the complaint?
2. Does the scheme breach EU law and constitute discrimination?
3. If it does, what follow-up steps does the Commission intend to take?

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