

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001688/25  
to the Commission  
Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)  
(28 April 2025)**

*Subject:* Alchemy with the actual unemployment figure and exclusion from benefits and support

According to the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), unemployment in Greece in February 2025 was 8.6%, (404,581 people), while those registered at the Greek Public Employment Service (DYPA) numbered 960,134 (21%). Here we have two services presenting different figures, with a discrepancy of over 500,000 unemployed people. ELSTAT, like the EU-LFS, the main source of data on unemployment in the EU, relies on sample surveys to calculate unemployment. ELSTAT follows the definitions of Eurostat and the ILO. It does not consider those who have worked even one hour a week, those who are not immediately available for work or those who have become discouraged and have stopped looking for work to be unemployed.

Furthermore, out of 960,134 people registered unemployed, only 26.8% were receiving unemployment benefit. In the same vein, the EU and governments are strengthening punitive provisions against the unemployed, with cuts in benefits, deprivation of the status of being unemployed and exclusion from all support.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position on the fact that, under EU guidelines, a large number of those deprived of the right to work do not receive any support, as they are not considered unemployed, and furthermore, three out of four officially unemployed people do not receive the meagre unemployment benefit?
2. What is the Commission's position on the increase in the number of unemployed people excluded from the benefit due to its contributory nature under the new 'unemployment subsidy' system, a result of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility?

Submitted: 28.4.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission  
(23 June 2025)**

The Eurostat definition of unemployed is based on guidelines and global standards provided by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

In line with Article 148 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (the 'Employment Guidelines') are to guide policy implementation in the Member States and in the EU, including in matters related to unemployment benefits <sup>(1)</sup>.

Member States retain their autonomy to determine the details of their social security systems (Article 153(4) TFEU), including which benefits are provided, their eligibility conditions and their calculation methods. Consequently, Greece retains its competence to determine the amounts of unemployment benefits to be provided.

The reform of the unemployment benefit system, tested on a pilot basis under the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility, is part of the Greek government's effort to streamline unemployment benefits, to improve public spending efficiency and facilitate transitions to employment.

The ongoing pilot considers prior work experience and applies an indexation of the benefit to the latest daily net wage level, which is decreasing over time to motivate return to work thereby having a positive impact on the coverage of the unemployment insurance system.

The pilot is based on a study funded by the Commission and complements the employment incentive introduced by Law 4921/2022 <sup>(2)</sup>, whereby unemployed persons who find a job during the duration of the unemployment benefit are entitled to 50% of the remaining benefit as an incentive in addition to their salary.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L\\_202403134](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202403134).

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://www.kodiko.gr/nomologia/download\\_fek?f=fek/2022/a/fek\\_a\\_75\\_2022.pdf&t=098149c7b54fc11d14f3b0da58d67f17](https://www.kodiko.gr/nomologia/download_fek?f=fek/2022/a/fek_a_75_2022.pdf&t=098149c7b54fc11d14f3b0da58d67f17).