

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002115/25
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(27 May 2025)**

Subject: Displaced workers and ‘subsidies’ from the ‘European Globalisation Adjustment Fund’

Businesses are closing their doors due to fierce capitalist competition, but also as a result of capitalists’ decisions to invest in other sectors or countries, leaving thousands of workers jobless.

The so-called ‘European Globalisation Adjustment Fund’ (EGF) is billed as a ‘support’ measure for displaced workers. While temporary benefits, reskilling and training programmes financed by the fund may provide temporary relief for workers pushed into unemployment, they do not ensure the return of these workers to stable and decent work. On the contrary, they provide the various networks of so-called ‘training centres’ with a steady stream of clients.

In view of this, can the Commission say:

1. What view does it take of the fact that the EGF does not act as a mechanism for preventing layoffs or safeguarding employment rights, but rather as a mechanism for managing unemployment and absolving employers of their obligations towards their employees, whom they themselves have been responsible for displacing, as a result of the legislative framework on mass layoffs, which favours the interests of groups, based on Directive 98/59/EC?
2. What view does it take of the fact that, instead of supporting the displaced workers themselves during their unemployment, the money from the fund is mostly plundered by the various ‘vocational training centres’, whose owners make a fortune while providing substandard training programmes that fail to respond to the real needs of displaced workers, who receive laughable allowances if and when they participate in them?

Submitted: 27.5.2025

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

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) ⁽¹⁾ enables the EU to show solidarity towards displaced workers.

The EGF offers one-off re-active assistance in case of major restructuring events by co-financing personalised active labour market policy measures with the aim of bringing dismissed workers back into sustainable employment as quickly as possible.

The Commission proposed on 1 April 2025 to amend the EGF Regulation ⁽²⁾ to support workers at risk of imminent job loss, allowing earlier intervention by swiftly mobilising support before collective dismissals and job losses occur.

The EGF support does not replace measures which are the responsibility of the enterprises by virtue of national law or collective agreement.

Tailor-made training to cater for labour market required skills is a cornerstone of the EGF support along with individual job-search services, occupational guidance, outplacement, entrepreneurship promotion and financial contribution to business start-up for those aiming to become self-employed.

Job-search allowance, employer recruitment incentives or contribution to cost of carers complement the above referred measures and cannot exceed 35% of the cost of the package of measures.

The Member States are entirely responsible for deciding the mix of measures funded by the EGF. Member States are required under the EGF Regulation to prevent, detect and deal effectively with any irregularities, including fraud, committed by beneficiaries.

The European Anti-Fraud Office has the power to carry out administrative investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/691 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/691/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 140 final, 1 April 2025 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0140>.