

**Question for written answer E-005939/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Measures to tackle poverty

The growth in inequality and poverty is the most dramatic consequence of the economic crisis and the excessive austerity strategy adopted in the EU. More than 120 million Europeans are currently living below the poverty line, and in countries such as Spain almost one in three citizens (27.3%) are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The most tragic situation is that facing children: recent reports, such as by Caritas, reveal that Spain has the second-highest rate of child poverty in the EU on 29.9%, almost nine percent above the EU average. Within Spain, a report by the Xunta de Galicia (Galician Government) puts the number of households with children at risk of poverty at 26%.

There is an urgent need for decisive action by the Commission to combat the increase in poverty, and especially child poverty, within the framework of solidarity which is the very foundation of the EU.

Does the Commission not therefore consider it necessary to promote an EU-wide plan to fight poverty, and especially child poverty? What measures will the Commission adopt to combat the increase in poverty, and especially child poverty? Will it present an agenda to tackle this scourge, with specific deadlines and budgets?