

**Question for written answer E-007076/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Minimum wage in Spain

The application of austerity policies in Europe is leading to greater inequality throughout the continent, most notably in countries in the south. Spain is suffering from a policy of wage cuts which is hitting the weakest hardest. Studies by, among others, the German foundation Bertelsmann Stiftung, place Spain at the top of European inequality ratings, while the OECD has warned that poverty is increasing in Spain because of wage cuts and is impacting negatively on consumption, hindering the country's exit from crisis.

Inequality in Spain is growing as never before, thanks to measures such as a freeze on the guaranteed minimum wage, applied for the first time in 2012 and 2014, combined with a labour reform which has cheapened dismissals and undermined collective bargaining, thereby increasing precarious and temporary work. These measures are also causing labour income's share in GDP to fall.

Does the Commission consider the impact of austerity measures on inequality and, in particular, on wage inequality, to be acceptable? Does it intend to take action? Does it see a need for a European framework of minimum wages?