

**Question for written answer E-008066/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Austerity measures and impoverishment of older persons in Portugal

According to available data, 20 % of Portugal's population is aged 65 or over, making it the EU country with the fourth largest percentage of older people (18 %) and the seventh largest percentage of older persons living alone below the poverty line (23.6 %). This stems from the fact that 77.9 % of recipients of the social security old-age pension get less than the national minimum wage (SMN).

In the second edition of the Global AgeWatch Index, we read that 'while older people in Norway benefit from well-resourced associations (...) older people in Portugal have borne the brunt of austerity measures over the last four years'. The portrait of Portugal, in 37th place in the table of 'most age-friendly' countries, shows that, in terms of income, older people in Portugal have suffered pension cuts of between 3.5 % and 40 %, depriving them of €628 million per year. Unemployment has risen, while the revision of the rent regulations and the cuts in travel passes have increased the cost of living.

I should therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. How it sees these data and what are the results and assessment of the programmes supported as part of the European Year for Active Ageing in 2012?
2. How it sees the impact of EU proposals under the European Semester and Budgetary Treaty on the position of older Portuguese people?