

**Question for written answer E-008410/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Increase in poverty in Portugal

The Portuguese National Statistics Institute has published the results of the 2012 Survey of Living Conditions and Income, which was carried out in 2013. The results are shocking. In 2012, 18.7% of the population was at risk of poverty (the highest figure since 2009), with the risk of poverty for those under 18 showing a marked upward tendency (24.4%, up 2.6% from 2011 figures). In terms of the impact of social benefits (sickness and invalidity, family, unemployment and social inclusion) on reducing the poverty risk, there is a huge difference between Portugal and the rest of Europe. In Portugal, these allowances help to reduce the youth poverty risk by 7.3%, compared with 14.3% in the EU-27. This situation is directly linked to the Troika's policies, and specifically with reductions in the amounts paid and in the scope of certain social benefits.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following:

1. In light of these results, does it intend to change its stance on the cuts in social benefits advocated by the Troika?
2. Does it support an increase in the amounts approved under the programme, which are clearly inadequate given the increase in individual poverty?