

**Question for written answer E-009059/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Combating child poverty in the EU

According to EU indicators, the poverty rate in my Autonomous Community, Galicia, increased by 16 % between 2011 and 2013. Almost a quarter of the region's inhabitants are consequently at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and a third of all children have been relegated to the fringes of society.

Child poverty is the most flagrant example of this drastic situation. According to Unicef, in the last three years more than EUR 6 billion have been cut from child welfare policies; this is unacceptable for social justice, equality and national competitiveness reasons.

The problem is not specific to my region and my country, it affects much of Europe. I would therefore like to know:

1. How is the EU responding to the rise in poverty and inequality, especially as regards children?
2. Does the Commission believe it would be advantageous to launch a properly funded plan to combat child poverty and social exclusion?
3. What reforms is it planning to introduce to reverse the damage done to EU citizens' wellbeing over the past few years and to ensure comparable average levels of social welfare between countries?