

**Question for written answer E-009815/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Fiscal consolidation policy in the European Union

On Monday 17 November 2014 the International Labour Organisation (ILO) published a report warning that fiscal consolidation policies had contributed to an increase in poverty and social exclusion rates in the EU. Austerity had played a part in the fact that poverty and social exclusion were currently affecting more than 123 million Europeans, i.e. 24% of the EU.

The study starts by looking at social welfare policies implemented between 2010 and 2015. It shows the multitude of cuts that have been made in fuel aid, food aid, reforms to the pension and health systems and increases in tax rates such as VAT or taxes on commodities.

1. Does the Commission not think it needs to address the serious inequality problem in the European Union?
2. What measures will the Commission take in this regard to reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups in EU countries?
3. Will it abandon its fiscal consolidation policy and commit itself to a plan of productive and social investments to help the quarter of Europeans being affected by such an economic policy?