

**Question for written answer E-010063/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Marielle de Sarnez (ALDE)**

Subject: Child poverty in Europe

The latest UNICEF report, entitled 'Children of the Recession', was a reminder that the economic crisis is weakening the situation of children around the globe, even in our European countries, which are among the richest on the planet. Two thirds of European Union Member States are affected. In Croatia, Greece, Ireland and Latvia, the number of children living below the poverty line has risen by 50%.

In France, the poverty rate of under-18s has risen by three points, from 15.6% in 2008 to 18.6% in 2012, with the number of children affected rising by 440 000. Conversely, and this needs to be emphasised and analysed, some European states have seen child poverty reduce, sometimes by a remarkable amount, as is the case in Austria, Finland, Poland and Slovakia, where the rate has dropped by some 30%.

UNICEF warns that 'failure to respond boldly may have long-term negative implications for societies', particularly for population growth.

Does the Commission intend to take the issue of child poverty into account in its employment, growth and investment programme?