

**Question for written answer E-011154/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Risk of poverty

Eurostat has published a set of statistics comparing the risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2008 and 2013. In 2013 24.5 % of the population fell into this bracket – a slight decrease on 2012, when the percentage of people at risk stood at 24.8 %, but still higher than 2008 (23.8 %). Similarly, in late October the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) published a report on poverty entitled 'Children of the Recession', according to which some 2.6 million children have entered into poverty in rich countries.

The figures are particularly worrying in the context of the aggressive austerity programmes imposed on EU citizens, which Unicef condemns in its report.

It should be of little surprise, therefore, that several poverty-fighting organisations have expressed concerns that pursuing budget-restriction policies will merely exacerbate the situation.

1. What is the Commission's reaction to these statistics?
2. What conclusions does it draw from them?