

**Question for written answer E-001314/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Nessa Childers (S&D)**

Subject: Europe 2020 strategy - country-specific recommendations for Ireland

The most recent country-specific recommendations for Ireland prepared by the Commission acknowledged specific problems faced by the country. It described these challenges as being characterised by macroeconomic imbalances, notably in the financial area and in terms of public and private indebtedness. Ireland was subsequently issued with seven country-specific recommendations to help it improve its economic performance. These are in the areas of public finances, health care, the labour market, education and training, social inclusion, access to finance, the financial sector and legal services.

Beyond the focus on employment creation, poverty and deprivation must be tackled, especially as regards the growing phenomenon of the working poor in Ireland.

In September 2014, Social Justice Ireland reported that, since the onset of the recession in 2007, the number of people in Ireland living in poverty had increased by almost 120 000, and the number stood at 750 000 at the time of release<sup>1</sup>.

On 21 January 2015, the Central Statistics Office in Ireland reported that one in eight children lacked basic necessities such as heating or warm clothes, and that the numbers anchored in consistent poverty had escalated to 140 000<sup>2</sup>.

Will the Commission therefore issue country-specific, anti-poverty targets for Ireland to tackle the endemic social deprivation experienced by significant proportions of the Irish population?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.socialjustice.ie/content/publications/national-social-monitor-2014>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/newsevents/documents/silc2013.pdf>