

**Question for written answer E-008031/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: The stagnation or even decline in social investment in Europe

A recent report by the European Social Observatory requested by the Commission and evaluating the situation in 35 States (European Union, Macedonia, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey) concluded that the economic crisis and the austerity measures have had a negative effect on social policies.

The report identifies four trends:

- Budget cuts for existing social investment resulting in reductions in the quality and quantity of social programmes;
- A movement away from successful social investment policies towards conditional policies for the most vulnerable;
- The delaying or cancellation of new policies;
- Precedence being given to short-term passive measures.

In its statement, the Commission talks of 'modernising social protection systems', but that cannot hide the general weakening of the European social model as a result of the effects of austerity measures.

Does the Commission intend to continue weakening the model on the pretext of 'modernisation' and thereby lose the confidence of its citizens, more than 120 million of whom are still threatened by poverty today?