

Question for written answer E-010614/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Rising inequality in Spain

According to a report by Capgemini and the Royal Bank of Canada, the number of people with large fortunes – i.e. those who have a million dollars, without counting the value of their primary residence or consumer goods – grew by 10 % in Spain in 2014 to reach a total of 178 000 wealthy individuals. Since 2008 the number of large fortunes has increased by 40 %, despite decreases registered in 2010 and 2011. These data show that during the crisis the number of rich people has risen by 50 000, especially since 2011. In other words, inequality has soared.

In the light of these data and the policies promoted by the European Union, focussed on deficit control and reforms consisting basically of social cutbacks by the Spanish Government in education – with budget cuts of 20 % between 2011 and 2015, health – down 10 %, – and social services – down 27 %, I should like to know the Commission's opinion on the aforementioned data, the rise in inequality and the relationship between such inequality and the cutbacks caused by austerity.