

**Question for written answer E-010762/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Income inequality is harmful to growth

In a study presented on 15 June 2015 on the causes and consequences of inequality, economists at the International Monetary Fund found that when the rich grow richer, growth rates fall. In other words, they consider income inequality to be harmful to economic growth.

This study challenges therefore the beliefs of neo-liberal economists who hold to the 'trickle down' theory, according to which the income of the richest in society contributes to growth. It invalidates too the argument that lowering tax rates for high and very high earners is good for the economy.

With inequality in Europe constantly rising, what account will the Commission take of this study when drawing up its economic policies to relaunch growth in the European Union?