

**Question for written answer E-010973/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Pablo Iglesias (GUE/NGL), Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL), Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL), Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL), Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE), Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL), Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL), Nessa Childers (S&D), Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL), Georgi Pirinski (S&D), Emmanuel Maurel (S&D), Emilian Pavel (S&D) and Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Quality of life and austerity in Europe

The latest study released by Eurostat 'Quality of Life – facts and views'¹, has given us more compelling data on the harmful impact of austerity policies, especially on the overall well-being of European citizens.

This study places countries that have been under severe austerity programs such as Spain, Portugal and Greece way below the European average.

A further study suggests that with regard to education in Spain, the difference between the most favoured and the most disadvantaged students within the same centre changed from 18 points in 2003 to 27 points in 2012, as opposed to 19 points on average for OECD countries, according to PISA barometer. 693 111 scholarships have been cut since 2011-2012 representing a decrease of 40%². The British Medical Journal report, published during the crisis, highlights that cutbacks in healthcare put people's lives at risk. This is the reality for Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Does the Commission think that the governments of countries on the periphery, such as Spain, should rethink their economic policies with the objective of improving the quality of life of its citizens? If so, in what ways could these governments attain this objective? Does the Commission think that a better quality of life is possible given the austerity measures that are in place?

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/6856423/KS-05-14-073-EN-N/742aee45-4085-4dac-9e2e-9ed7e9501f23>

² http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/510019/IPOL_STU%282015%29510019_EN.pdf