

**Question for written answer E-013908/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Social indicators in the European Semester

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs wants the EU's economic governance framework to take greater account of the social dimension, through the incorporation of early warning systems, particularly as regards unemployment rates. With that aim in view, a number of social indicators have been proposed and will be introduced from 2016 onwards. This measure seems derisory, however, when set against the severe impact of austerity and the economic crisis on the social situation in the Member States.

1. Is the main purpose of these indicators to provide a social fig leaf for the continued implementation of austerity policies which have proved utterly ineffective?
2. Why is the crisis still being dealt with as though it were cyclical, by means of piecemeal corrective measures? Is it not time that we finally accepted that the problems are in fact structural and addressed the root causes?