

**Question for written answer E-000501/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Minimum wage in the EU

22 out of the 28 Member States currently have a set national minimum wage. Those that do not have a minimum wage set by the government are Austria, Denmark, Finland, Cyprus, Italy and Sweden, which only have collective bargaining agreements. Germany set a minimum wage only recently, at the beginning of 2015.

Minimum wage levels are quite diverse and range from EUR 1.13 per hour in Bulgaria (taking into account the currency exchange rate) to EUR 12.32 in Luxembourg. The basic national minimum wage is fixed in some countries at a monthly rate and in other countries at a weekly or hourly rate.

Considering also that in all 22 countries the minimum wage in 2015 was less than in 2014, can the Commission answer the following questions:

Does the Commission intend to promote the idea of a standard minimum wage in the EU?

What steps does it intend to take to foster an increase in the minimum wage in Member States for 2016, as compared with 2015?