

**Question for written answer E-003373/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Filiz Hyusmenova (ALDE)**

Subject: Investing in children

According to the Commission Recommendation of 20 February 2013 entitled 'Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage', children growing up in poverty and social exclusion are less likely to do well in school, enjoy good health and realise their full potential later in life, when they are at a higher risk of being unemployed and poor, thus falling into a vicious circle of social exclusion.

According to Eurostat the percentage of children facing social exclusion and poverty is striking, ranging from around 27 % for the European Union as a whole to 49 % -51 % for countries such as Bulgaria and Romania. In order to reach the goals set in the Europe 2020 strategy, the available EU instruments need to be better used and more concrete action needs to be taken – not only at EU policy level, but on the ground – at national and regional level.

1. What kind of concrete steps and action are currently being discussed by the Commission to tackle the high risk of social exclusion and poverty for children in Europe?
2. Does the Commission consider that Member States are making good enough use of the available EU funding for investment in children, for example the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived or the European Social Fund?