

**Question for written answer E-007246/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

Subject: Economic development disparities between EU Member States

According to a study published by the Bertelsmann foundation on 18 August 2016, economic development disparities between EU Member States have grown. The Nordic Member States are showing stronger economic performance than the southern Member States, which have suffered from the crisis and austerity policies. However, economic disparities are intensifying in all of these Member States.

The report also highlights the burden that the EU policy of welcoming refugees is placing on Member States.

1. How effective would the Commission say its cohesion policy has been in the light of the increasing disparities between Member States?
2. How does the Commission intend to sustain the European project in this context of increasing disparities?
3. Is it aware of the burden that welcoming refugees is placing on Member State budgets?