

**Question for written answer E-007357/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Cuts in European Social Fund financing for Spain

The Commission is threatening to 'punish' Spain for failing to meet the deficit targets established in the Stability and Growth Pact. The 'punishments' are to include the suspension of Structural and Investment Fund payments, which, according to Commissioner Katainen, could amount to 20% of budgetary commitments for 2017.

The European Social Fund (ESF) Social Inclusion and Social Economy Operational Programme is among those which may be affected by the cuts.

Leading Spanish NGOs have warned that their activities, included under thematic objective 9 on 'promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and all types of discrimination', could be badly affected if the Commission follows through on its threat.

In addition to the fact that we do not share many of the premises set out in the Stability and Growth Pact, which appears to be driven more by corporate interests than those of EU citizens, we disagree with the threats associated with compliance.

Has the Commission included any of the above programmes among the possible cuts?

If so, what criteria can it be using if the areas it chooses to target are the programmes affecting the most vulnerable, those hit hardest by the crisis, and those who most need help from the government?