

**Question for written answer E-007769/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU budget for 2017 and social policy

The EU is expanding its sphere of competence while simultaneously seeking to restrict the Member States' budgetary margin for manoeuvre. It is also trying to impose its growing influence on the regions on the pretext of bringing about greater economic convergence in the internal market.

It intends to introduce a European social pillar to give itself a genuine social dimension: restrictive laws are planned in a number of areas which fall outside the EU's exclusive sphere of competence and there is talk of reforming workers' social protection, restructuring pension systems and even standardising tax rules and introducing a European budget for the euro area.

Is it not the case that, taken together, these moves reflect the Commission's desire to impose a federalist vision of European integration?