

**Question for written answer E-002155/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: Rural poverty

In 2015, almost one quarter of the EU population was at risk of poverty and social exclusion, with the poverty rate in some countries being higher in rural areas. According to the statistics, rural poverty is linked to the disadvantages of rural areas that can be associated with a lack of basic services. Even though the responsibility for tackling poverty and exclusion lies primarily with the Member States, the EU is committed, through the Europe 2020 Strategy, to lifting 20 million people out of poverty by 2020.

What is the expected outcome of investment in rural development and what are the expected results of the rural development funding spent at national and regional level? Is the Commission looking into strengthening the rural development policy in order to enable more direct and effective action to combat social exclusion in rural areas and boost the dynamism of these areas?