

**Question for written answer E-005104/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Methodology and framework to assess social expenditure and measure its economic returns

There is overwhelming evidence that expenditure in areas such as of early childhood education and care, education and training, health, and social housing, pays off not only socially but also economically.

Does the Commission agree that it should come up with a commonly accepted horizontal definition to assess which concrete public spending by Member States can be considered as social investment leading to concrete economic returns?

There is a growing number of reports (e.g. from think tanks) on possible methodologies to assess short/medium/long-term economic and social returns generated by social investment but so far this research has not been pulled together. The risk is that the scientific discourse will turn in circles without policy-makers picking up evidence.

Does the Commission agree that it should set up a working group which can pull together research and come up with a commonly accepted methodology to assess the short/medium/long-term economic and social returns generated by social investment?