

**Question for written answer E-006491/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Council Recommendation: employment and inequality

It is stated in recital 11 of the Council Recommendation on the 2017 National Reform Programme of Spain (which the Commission submitted several months ago) that 'job creation has been strong in recent years, supported by labour market reforms and wage moderation'. The decline in the labour market caused by those reforms has, however, led to a steep rise in the number of workers at risk of poverty, with Spain ranked 26th in the EU. According to Eurostat, that number is likely to increase, as is the number of people in involuntary part-time employment.

The relevant indicators – the GINI, the SJI and the Palma ratio – show that social inequality is definitely on the rise. This situation shows that there is a clear divergence between the improvements observed in some macro indicators and the worsening standards of living that are affecting an ever greater number of people.

What is the Commission doing to address this divergence?

- Is the Commission going to continue to endorse reforms that are making workers poorer?
- Does the Commission take the view that the supposed recovery can be maintained in the long term, without the risk of further crises, if earned income is declining as a proportion of GDP?