

**Question for written answer E-006492/2017
to the Council**
Rule 130
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Subject: Council Recommendation: employment and inequality

The Council Recommendation on the 2017 National Reform Programme of Spain issued by the Commission several months ago states in recital 11 that 'job creation has been strong in recent years, supported by labour market reforms and wage moderation'. However, the damage that these reforms have caused to the labour market has led to a notable increase in the rate of workers at risk of poverty; Spain now ranks twenty-sixth among EU Member States based on this criterion. According to Eurostat, the trend is for a rise in both this rate and the rate of involuntary part-time employment.

This means that social inequality is on the rise, as demonstrated by three separate measuring methods: the Gini coefficient, the Social Justice Index and the Palma ratio. This situation reveals a huge discrepancy between the improvement shown by some macro-economic indicators and the deterioration in living conditions experienced by increasing numbers of ordinary people.

How does the Council account for this discrepancy?

- Does the Council continue to back reforms that are making workers poorer?
- Does the Council think that the apparent economic recovery can be maintained over time with no risk of further crises when income from work constitutes a decreasing proportion of GDP?