

**Question for written answer E-007244/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Conditions for providing allowances for childcare in Slovakia, financed through the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Slovakia is drawing on funds from the ESF and ERDF through the Human Capital Operational Programme for the programming period 2014-2020.

The Commission approved the programme by way of Implementing Decision CCI 2014SK05M0OP001 of 9 December 2014, which approved certain elements of the operational programme, including the priority axes. Part of Priority Axis 3 'employment' is objective 3.2.1., which aims to increase employment among people with parental duties, and women in particular, by improving labour market conditions so that they are favourable to reconciling work and family life. Funding for this objective comes mainly from the ESF, and it also covers the provision of childcare allowance for children up to three years of age in Slovakia.

1. Does European law regulate the conditions that a parent or a natural person to whom a child is entrusted for care in the parent's place (such as a nursery) must meet in order to qualify for that allowance, or is it left entirely to the Member State's discretion to specify the conditions for granting the allowance?
2. Slovakia has made the provision of childcare allowances for a child up to three years of age conditional on placing the child in a registered nursery. However, nurseries can only be registered after a final decision has been submitted with an explicit indication of this service, and from 1 January 2019, with barrier-free access. Can Slovakia restrict its contribution in such a way?