

**Question for written answer E-002778/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norica Nicolai (ALDE)

Subject: Modification of Austria's Family Law Compensation Act

One of the fundamental principles of the European Union is the free movement of people. In accordance with this, workers across the Union must receive the same treatment and must not be discriminated against on grounds of nationality.

The Austrian government has recently proposed a change to the indexation method under the Family Law Compensation Act (*Familienlastenausgleichsgesetz*), so that the amount received by a parent in child benefits is indexed to the cost of living of the country where the child is residing. This bill discriminates against migrant workers from particular areas of Europe, such as those from Eastern Europe, including Romania, and will unjustly favour those from more prosperous countries.

This is a view shared by the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik, which has published a study showing that this move is against EU law and constitutes an infringement of the rights of migrant workers that ignores the spirit of the internal market.

Does the Commission consider that this change to the indexation method under the Austrian family allowance law constitutes discrimination against migrant workers based on nationality, and is therefore a violation of EU law?

If so, what measures will the Commission propose in order to defend citizens' basic rights in Austria?