

**Question for written answer E-002878/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Autonomous communities an obstacle to implementation of the country-specific recommendations

The Commission has recently published this year's country-specific recommendations. In its recommendations for Spain, it urges the Government to unify the market, harmonise social assistance and tackle school drop-out rates and differences in educational outcomes between autonomous communities. According to an OECD Programme for International Student Assessment report, differences in education level between autonomous communities can be up to two school years. School drop-out rates vary by more than 20 points between regions.

The Commission also believes that the Spanish Government should reduce disparities in access to social assistance, as, according to Eurostat, of all the Member States, Spain comes in third for greatest increase since 2008 in levels of national population at risk of poverty.

Taking into account that these recommendations are intended to boost growth and employment, and that the powers which these recommendations concern are devolved to autonomous communities, which poses an obstacle to their implementation:

1. Is the Commission aware that for its recommendations to be brought about, the autonomous communities will need to agree to most of them and carry them out?
2. Bearing in mind the above fact, how does the Commission intend to encourage the Spanish Government to put the proposed reforms into practice?
3. In its next set of recommendations or reports, does the Commission intend to analyse existing differences between the autonomous communities in the above areas?