

**Question for written answer E-004940/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Our pensions: the Commission and Pakistan are costing us huge sums of money

According to the Commission¹, in France the average net pension is set to decrease until 2060². As far as retirement age is concerned, from 1 January 2019 a new reform will cut, by 10%, the pensions of employees who do not continue to work for an additional year after having reached the age for retirement on a full pension (age 62 if the required duration of contributions has been met).

Aurore Bergé, the French parliamentarian (LREM), thinks that 'our generation can legitimately ask them to make an effort because our generation has not had the same opportunities as they have'³. This effort (an increase in the French 'contribution sociale généralisée' (generalised social contribution, CSG) followed by the ending of pensions indexing, resulting in savings of EUR 2 billion) was made necessary because of the 3% budget deficit claimed by Brussels.

In 2017, 500 000 French citizens⁴ received the minimum old age pension (solidarity allowance granted to older people, 'ASP'), amounting to EUR 803 per month for a single person and EUR 1 245 per month for a couple. Instead of doubling the pensions of these 500 000 French citizens, the Commission committed EUR 347 million to Pakistan (2014-2017)⁵.

Why is the Commission committing this money to Pakistan?

¹ 2018 Pension Adequacy Report: current and future income adequacy in old age in the EU, Volume II, p. 100. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/pensions-eu-2018-apr-30_en

² The theoretical replacement rate, estimated at 76.3% for those who retired in 2016, will probably be 68.6% in 2056 for a worker on average pay and an uninterrupted career over 40 years.

³ 29 August 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uqM9YLu3nY>

⁴ 3.5% of retired people. <http://www.lefigaro.fr/social/2017/05/11/20011-20170511ARTFIG00006-les-16millions-de-retraites-touchent-en-moyenne-1376euros.php>

⁵ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Mid-term review report of the External Financing Instruments (15 December 2017) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017DC0720&from=EN>