

**Question for written answer E-004941/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: 150,000 homeless in France and EUR 61 billion for Africa

France's contribution to the EU's budget is estimated at EUR 21.5 billion in 2019, compared with EUR 17.9 billion in 2017¹.

Over the period 2014 to 2020, the Commission is planning to invest some EUR 42 billion in Africa, mainly in the form of grants. Brussels is already proposing to increase this figure to EUR 61 billion for 2021-27², with EUR 8 billion coming from the French taxpayer.

In 2019, the reduction in housing benefits will shave EUR 0.9 billion off entitlements³. According to a report by the Fondation Abbé Pierre in 2017, there are almost 150,000 homeless people in France: "over the last ten years, the number of homeless in France has risen by 50%".⁴

Why is Africa more of an important issue for the Commission than poverty and housing in Europe?

¹ Draft Finance Bill for 2019 including the assumption that the United Kingdom will fulfil its financial obligations, as it committed to do in December 2017. September 2018, p. 129.
<https://www.caissedesdepotsdesterritoires.fr/cs/BlobServer?blobkey=id&blobnocache=true&blobwhere=1250171189284&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobcol=urldata&blobtable=MungoBlobs>

² Les Echos - 17 September 2018

³ The reform planned for 2019 is expected to bring a net saving of EUR 0.9 billion on the amounts paid out in welfare. Draft Finance Bill for 2019, p. 17.

⁴ Homelessness; <https://www.francebleu.fr/infos/societe/le-nombre-de-sdf-augmente-de-50-en-10-ans-denonce-la-fondation-abbe-pierre-1485854307>