

EN
E-000598/2019
Answer given by Ms Thyssen
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.5.2019)

Supported by a broad economic recovery, convergence in the EU has restarted. Since its accession to the EU in 2007, Romania's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in relation to the EU average has grown up from 44 % to 63% in 2017.

To support action at Member States level, the EU uses a number of tools, notably policy guidance, legislation establishing a level-playing field and financial support. The European Pillar of Social Rights provides the overall framework for improving living conditions across the EU. The Commission monitors implementation of the Pillar through the European Semester¹. In this context, the 2019 Country Report for Romania acknowledged an improvement of the poverty rate in 2017, but stressed that challenges remain, including very high monetary poverty.

Legal initiatives such as the adopted Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions and the Council Recommendation on access to social protection also support these objectives in the EU.

The European Social Fund² and the European Fund for the Most Deprived³ support social inclusion and provision of material support to those in need. Together with the European Regional Development Fund and the European Fund for Strategic Investments ('The Juncker Plan'), they support integrated community services, economic and social regeneration, health and education projects. The new generation of Programmes after 2021 will also have a stronger link between the policy reforms and the EU funding.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester_en

² Approximately EUR 1.1 billion from the European Social Fund is allocated to Romania for investment in the thematic objective on social Inclusion. A further EUR 800 million is allocated for supporting necessary infrastructure for social inclusion under the European Regional Development Fund.

³ Approximately EUR 520 million from the European Fund for the Most Deprived is allocated to Romania for support measures alleviating the material deprivation.