

**Question for written answer E-001252/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Austerity as an influencing factor on the slowdown of life expectancy growth in the EU

According to a recent study by the OECD, the increase in life expectancy slowed down considerably in the EU Member States over the period of the economic crisis. The effect on mortality rates was equally troubling. The indications are particularly worrying for women and the elderly, and 2015 was the first year in decades to see a net decrease in life expectancy across the EU.

The OECD researchers were comparing data from 2011-2016 with data from the 2006-2011 period.

While the researchers noted that many factors are to blame for the trend, they pointed in particular to the possible impact of austerity and cuts to healthcare and welfare spending in most EU countries.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Is it aware of the statistics showing that life expectancy growth is slowing down in the EU? If so, what is its assessment of the situation?
2. Has it investigated the role played by austerity in these worrying developments, and how does it intend to tackle the issues?