

**Question for written answer P-000074/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Protecting homeless people, the poor, the elderly and refugees in freezing temperatures in Europe

Freezing temperatures are a regular occurrence in Europe in the winter, and 2017 is no exception. On 10 January, *El País* reported that since the beginning of the current cold snap, four poor people have died in Bulgaria, six homeless people have died in the Czech Republic, a woman in Croatia has died, as have twenty people in Poland, eight in Italy and two in Greece.

El País also reported that the International Federation of the Red Cross is concerned about the effects of the freezing temperatures in the refugee camps in Turkey, Greece and the Balkans.

It is appalling that, in the 21st century, people are dying of cold in what is the closest-knit, most highly developed geopolitical union in the world.

1. What is the Commission's view on this situation and the steps the Member States have taken?
2. What steps is the Commission intending to take in the short, medium and long term to prevent people dying of cold?