

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6183/08
by Rovana Plumb (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Romanian Law No 148/2005 on support to families for raising children

The latest statistics show that, in Romania, around 1 500 young girls between the ages of 13 and 15, and another 27 000 aged between 15 and 18, have become mothers.

Law No 148/2005 on support to families for raising children stipulates that the monthly allowance can only be granted to young mothers if, in the year prior to the birth of the child, they were in receipt of taxable earned income.

That provision discriminates against broad sections of society: young women who have been raped and decide to keep the child, but who have never worked owing to their tender years; students who have never worked, for the same reason; women who have worked for many years, but not in the year prior to the birth of the child; women who started work before their child was born, but who had not worked for a full year.

The law in question completely contradicts Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Is the Commission aware of similar problems in other Member States and does it have any information on the ways in which Member States have resolved this issue?

Does it anticipate taking any action in the sphere of social integration which could help solve this problem?