

**Question for written answer E-011610/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Minimum income

A further European Parliament resolution [P7\_TA(2011)0495] on the European Platform against poverty and social exclusion wishes 'the Commission, in full compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, to launch a consultation on the possibility of a legislative initiative concerning a sensible minimum income which will allow economic growth, prevent poverty and serve as a basis for people to live in dignity, play a full part in society and make headway with finding employment or identifying training opportunities, and which will play an automatic stabilising role for the economy, with due regard for differing practices, and for collective labour agreements and legislation in the various Member States, bearing in mind that the definition of a minimum income remains the prerogative of each Member State; wishes the Commission to help the Member States share best practice in relation to minimum income levels, and encourages the Member States to develop minimum income schemes based on at least 60% of the median income in each Member State'.

Can the Commission therefore provide the following information:

1. Has a consultation been launched on a minimum income in the various Member States based on 60% of the median income?
2. What steps have been taken to help the countries in most difficulty to tackle and prevent increasing in poverty?