

**Question for written answer E-002277/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Śławomir Witold Nitras (PPE)**

Subject: Hidden debt of EU Member States due to future pension benefits

Following the Polish Government's decision to extend and equalise the retirement age for women and men, a debate has been raging in the country on the entire system for guaranteeing income for future pensioners. One argument in favour of reform, and consequently in favour of increasing future income from contributions, is the fact that every one of the Member States that has had or still has a pay-as-you-go pensions system has accumulated massive debts as a result. This debt will be a significant burden on these countries' budgets, which will undoubtedly have an impact on the quality of life of the people living there.

1. Does the Commission have any figures on the level of the above-mentioned debt in relation to GDP in EU Member States, both as an absolute value and as simulated annual budget payments to pension systems?
2. What is the Commission's assessment of the threat associated with this debt?
3. Within the framework of the European semester, will the Commission recommend remedial measures to the Member States most burdened by such debt? If so, what will these measures be?
4. What is the European Systemic Risk Board's role with regard to addressing this situation?