

**Question for written answer E-005912/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: EU Roma policies

The Roma are the most numerous transnational minority in the European Union and the integration issues of this minority have always been a subject of EU debate and action. A recently published World Bank and UN survey (May 2012) suggests that the Roma minority's living conditions are continuing to degenerate. Only 17% of young Roma complete secondary education or vocational schools. Half of Roma still live in homes without a kitchen, shower or electricity. An average of 40% of Roma interviewed had not been able to afford to buy food at least once in the course of the previous month.

Projects seeking better Roma integration over time have proved to be limited in terms both of results and approach. After 2004, and especially since 2007, there has been an exponential growth in the Roma minority population in the EU, and EU strategies and programmes have benefited from major financing through the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund, etc., and yet successful solutions have been as scarce as in the past. Considering also the exacerbated social impact of the world economic crisis, the Roma community ought to be treated with increased attention, owing to the vulnerability which typifies it.

In the context of the negotiation of the post-2013 multiannual financial framework, I would like to ask the Commission if it is considering adopting a new approach and a new strategy for the allocation of funds in order to enable existing issues to be addressed more effectively.