

**Question for written answer E-002647/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Suicides following evictions in Spain

Some Member States, such as Spain, face the tragic situation of people committing suicide after having been evicted from their homes.

The Spanish Government is not taking any form of action on this issue, and the Council has not sent any specific recommendation to Spain with regard to it.

Large demonstrations, organised by the organisation 'Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca' ('Platform for Mortgage Victims'), were held all over Spain on 16 February 2013, and a citizens' initiative has been introduced in the Spanish lower house of parliament with the support of 1 402 854 signatures.

While financial institutions that receive EU bailout funds own houses that are empty, neither the Member States nor the Troika are pushing to have these buildings put on the rental market or in the social housing stock. While the real problem for the financial sector is the level of debt within the construction sector, several Member State governments have let households pay the heaviest price of the crisis.

Notwithstanding the Commission proposal for a directive on credit agreements relating to residential property (COM(2011)0142), currently under negotiation, many families holding mortgages have been the victims of abusive foreclosures. Until the directive is adopted, an exceptional procedure should be introduced in order to guarantee the housing rights of homeowners throughout the EU.

1. Will the Commission anticipate the adoption of the proposed directive and act urgently to mitigate evictions and stem a mounting social crisis, avoiding national legislation that would force those evicted to continue making mortgage payments even after they have been ejected from their former property?
2. Will the Commission recommend that the Member States receiving financial help from the EU (Greece, Portugal, Spain and Ireland) establish a social housing plan in coordination with financial institutions receiving EU bailout funds, in order to match empty houses with people in need of housing?
3. Will the Commission include this aspect in its country-specific recommendation for the European Semester?