

**Question for written answer E-005529/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Dependency and austerity

Parliament has stressed on numerous occasions the need to promote EU-level measures to respond to the social and health challenge posed by the gradual ageing of the European population; this sector of the population now exceeds 85 million people.

The EU should start taking decisive steps to support the health- and social-care sector. The previous Spanish Government implemented the so-called Dependency Law, which the current government is dismantling on the pretext that it is hugely expensive and that the State cannot afford it. In Cantabria, EUR 7 822 343.40 has been cut from dependent care.

However, studies show that this sector not only contributes to health improvements, but also boosts employment and with it the country's economy. It is estimated that for every EUR 1 million invested in dependency, more than 30 stable jobs that cannot be offshored are created.

All that austerity policies in the health- and social-care sector will produce is increased numbers of people dependent on the health and social care provided by central- or regional-government institutions in the Member States.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to reverse this trend?