

**Question for written answer E-005532/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D)

Subject: Socio-economic impact of the crisis on Spanish families: across Spain and in individual regions

The Commission communication entitled 'Promoting solidarity between the generations' clearly sets out the duties of the European Alliance for Families (EAF). These include setting up a European observatory of best family-policy practices as part of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) in Dublin. It also set the objective of establishing support policies to secure suitable living conditions for families, including cash benefits and tax exemptions.

In the face of the current economic crisis, Spain has opted for a policy that does not support the growth of our economy and, moreover, leaves hundreds of families below the poverty line. For the school year 2012-2013, Cantabria has cut EUR 3 million in grants for textbooks and EUR 150 000 for school meals, which is on top of reduced support for large families.

Spain allocates only 1.2% of GDP to family policy, compared with the European average of 2%. In view of this situation, has the EAF given the Commission region-specific information on the socio-economic impact of the crisis in Spain? What is its view of these statistics? What steps does the Commission plan to take to support families' living conditions, thereby reducing poverty and social exclusion?

Does the Commission consider the economic and social adjustment carried out by some Member States with regard to family benefits and family-friendly policies in line with the Europe 2020 strategy objective of reducing poverty and social exclusion?