

**Question for written answer E-003214/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Tonino Picula (S&D)**

Subject: The role of social work

The system of social work and care for people in need is at the heart of the welfare state, and today we celebrate World Social Work Day. The important contribution that this profession makes helps make life easier for people of all ages. Social workers have a wide range of responsibilities, including caring for the most vulnerable groups in society. In view of this fact, social workers deserve adequate recognition for their work.

The role of social work is especially important in view of the economic crisis and the many austerity measures that have been imposed, as people are facing serious social and economic uncertainties across Europe. Therefore, criteria for social assistance that are based on the principle of solidarity are more necessary than ever.

As regards the most vulnerable groups in society, a majority of Members at the February 2014 part-session voted in favour of the proposal on a new programming period for the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), saving EUR 1 billion from being cut and maintaining the EUR 3.5 billion sum allocated under the EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014 to 2020. This sum, however, is not even close to being enough to meet the needs of those who are in the greatest need of assistance.

Is the Commission weighing up the option of reviewing the programme with a view to increasing the budget before it formally expires? Besides the aforementioned fund, what additional measures does the Commission intend to implement to raise public awareness of the importance of social work to our society and to provide genuine assistance to all those who need it?