

**Question for written answer E-005189/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL) and Alda Sousa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Bairro do Sobreiro - Maia, Portugal

Bairro do Sobreiro, in Maia, is a social housing estate built in the 1980s, which is currently managed by a municipal enterprise called 'Espaço Municipal' (Municipal Space).

The estate is currently home to some 800 families but could, as in the past, house many more were it not for the fact that the buildings have not been maintained and, as a result, are in a poor state of repair and pose health and safety risks. There are also some buildings that are in danger of imminent collapse, and two buildings where there is not even any lighting in the communal areas.

In addition, the estate was built using fibre-cement boards containing asbestos, which is a serious health risk to everyone living in these buildings, especially given their poor state of repair.

At a time when Portugal is experiencing a growing social crisis because of the implementation of austerity policies, there is an increasing need for a response in the form of social and low-cost housing. This means it is vital to renovate existing homes and build new ones.

Can the Commission answer the following questions in the light of the above:

1. What measures is the Commission planning to take as regards this situation?
2. Does the Commission think it is appropriate to continue to house 800 families in homes with fibre-cement roofing containing asbestos?
3. Is a Member State allowed to leave buildings used for social housing in this condition?
4. What measures does the Commission plan to take to promote the supply of social housing in the Member States?