

**Question for written answer E-002609/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Andrey Kovatchev (PPE)

Subject: Equal pay and pensions for men and women in the EU

Ernest Urtasun's report of 23 February 2017 on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2014-2015 states that gender equality is a fundamental right enshrined in the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Despite the progress reported, Parliament regrets the persistence of the gender pay gap and gender pension gap. It condemns the fact that in more than half of the Member States the gender pension gap has increased.

Does the Commission plan to create a European framework and a mechanism to regulate pay for men and women and shrink the gender pension gap?

Are there regulatory instruments available to the EU which could encourage the Member States and social partners to achieve progress by taking urgent action?