

**Question for written answer E-005540/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Distribution of basic necessities in Greece

At the Eurogroup meeting of 15 June 2017, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) reached agreement on an EUR 8.5 billion loan to Greece. It will be paid by the ESM in two instalments.

With a whole section of the Greek population in a most alarming situation, several Member States have asked the Commission for permission to give purchasing vouchers to the worst off, as this seems a more dignified and less costly solution than handing out food and clothing.

The Commission is, however, resorting to legal quibbling in order to refuse this on the pretext that vouchers of this kind are similar to 'financial resources'.

The Commission is, therefore, imposing unprecedented austerity measures on the Greek people while at the same time taking issue over how Member States are trying to curb the consequences of these Commission-prescribed policies.

Will the Commission give precedence to combating poverty – so urgently needed and in the general interest – by allowing Member States to distribute purchasing vouchers among the worst off?