

**Question for written answer E-003691/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Maria Gabriela Zoană (S&D)

Subject: Care services in the EU

Alongside the ageing of the population and women's full participation in employment, there is an increasing demand for high-quality, affordable and accessible care services across Europe.

The Commission and Member States have constantly been making efforts to improve the social rights of citizens. However, some gaps exist in care services. Most of the childcare is provided on a part-time basis and is therefore unable to meet the needs of working parents in most Member States¹.

The lack of a harmonised definition of long-term care services provided by the private sector makes it difficult to collect data and monitor the development of such services. In addition, carers often have fairly low social status, low wage levels and poor working conditions. And sometimes they do not have a formal employment contract.

Although developing and monitoring care services falls within Member States' competence:

1. Would the Commission recommend improving the provision of full-time childcare services in Member States?
2. Would the Commission envisage developing common definitions for long-term care services and improving data collection, especially for services provided by the private sector?
3. What measures will the Commission take to promote the social status of care professionals?

¹ Commission report of 8 May 2018 entitled 'Barcelona Objectives' (COM(2018)0273).