

**Question for written answer E-004399/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE)

Subject: Social grants in Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, children who have been orphaned have to wait until they are in the 8th grade at school before getting a social grant. Under Bulgarian law, grants are only paid to orphans who have reached that stage in their schooling – i.e. have completed their basic education. Children in grades 1 to 7 whose parents have died are not entitled to a grant. This provision also applies to disabled school children and to children at risk, whom the grant is designed to help and prevent dropping out from school.

- 1) Is the Commission aware of the policies and regulations being pursued by Bulgaria to prevent children dropping out from school, and the reasons why those policies are not successful?
- 2) What steps can the Commission suggest Bulgaria take to provide satisfactory social and financial protection for children whose parents have died?