

**Question for written answer E-001687/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Increasing inequalities between northern and southern Europe

According to a recent study by the Bruegel Institute, inequalities between the northern and southern Europe are steadily increasing, rather than decreasing.

The data point to an alarming increase in fiscal pressures, mainly due to the productivity problem faced by the EU as a whole, especially in relation to regional powers such as China and India (annual GDP growth:

EU 1.9%, US 2.3%).

In addition, the EU is experiencing slowing growth, and due to the long-term effects of the recession, social cohesion is under threat even in Member States with high growth rates.

Pressure due to the productivity gap between the EU and the US and China has resulted in collateral damage to economies such as Greece, Portugal and Spain, which again raises the question of sustainable development.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. can it identify the mistakes and political failings that have produced the above results and what does it intend to do in the near future to change this dangerous trend?
2. What redistributive policies is the EU pursuing to help weaker economies?
3. Which of the Commission's recommendations has Germany implemented as a result of the macroeconomic imbalances caused by its high surplus?