

**Question for written answer E-003173/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Fair Deal scheme

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme, also known as the 'Fair Deal', provides financial support to people who need long-term nursing home care in Ireland. The scheme is operated by the Health Service Executive (HSE). Under the scheme, participants make a contribution towards the cost of their care and the state pays the balance. The amount to be contributed is calculated based on assessments of the participant's financial situation and care needs.

Under the scheme's financial assessment criteria, any income which an applicant deprived themselves of in the five years leading up to their application – including land, property and assets legally transferred to another person – is considered reckonable.

1. Is the Commission satisfied that the provisions of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme, where assets legally transferred within the past five years are assessed as if they still belonged to the original owner, are consistent with EU property rights?
2. Will it comment on the legality of transferred ownership in circumstances to which EU property rights apply?