

**Question for written answer E-003388/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil

Subject: Poverty migration and the European Social Fund

Increasing levels of poverty migration within the EU are a major problem.

The number of Romanians in Essen has risen by 742% since Romania's accession in 2007. With a population of 4 733, Romanians are the second-largest group of foreigners in Essen after the Poles (20 709). Many live in poverty and some are homeless¹.

Since poverty migration originates in the countries of origin, that is where it must be tackled. Yet reports indicate that EU funding intended to promote the development of these countries is either not used or is used in the wrong way.

Romania, for example, not only has a very low absorption rate, it also finances many projects which are not tailored to the needs of the local economy and the local labour market. The situation has barely improved since the funding started. Romania continues to make the same mistakes it has made since the programme was introduced. The causes of the problem are corruption and an administration which does not work².

- 1 Can Romania's development really be promoted by means of hefty transfers of funds when the country is plagued by corruption and the lack of a functioning administration?
- 2 What measures will the Commission propose to ensure Romania makes meaningful use of EU taxpayers' money, promotes the country's development and thereby counters poverty migration?

¹ Christina Wandt: 'Many immigrants from South-East Europe in Essen live in poverty', WAZ, 7 May 2019.

² Dragoş Adăscăliţei: 'Old wine in new bottles: Romania's recurrent problem with EU funds absorption', COHESIFY, 13 September 2018.