

**Question for written answer E-003767/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Poverty immigration

The Commission stresses that the accession of the Western Balkan countries will help the EU to maintain its international role and protect its foreign-policy interests. All the attention is focused on foreign-policy benefits, but the problematic domestic consequences are not being taken into account.

In North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany, for example, social associations and police confederations issued warnings about the negative consequences of free movement on the eve of Bulgaria's and Romania's accession to the EU in 2007 ¹. There followed a significant influx of poor people from those countries. The number of Romanians in the German city of Essen has increased by 742 per cent since Romania joined the EU. With a population of 4 733, they are now the second-largest group of foreigners from within the EU in Essen, after the Poles (20 709) ². Many live in poverty and some are homeless. In many districts, social unrest and anger over social fraud, litter and drug problems are on the rise.

What discussions has the Commission had with the police confederations and social associations in North Rhine-Westphalia and other German Länder on the above-mentioned consequences of possible poverty immigration, and what was the outcome of the discussions?

What impact assessments had the Commission carried out by the time of Romania's and Bulgaria's accession on the above-mentioned consequences of poverty immigration?

What impact assessments has the Commission carried out in view of the forthcoming enlargement?

¹ Till-Reimer Stoldt: 'NRW Minister for Integration warns of consequences of EU eastward enlargement', Die Welt, 29 March 2018.

² Christina Wandt: 'Many immigrants from south-east Europe living in poverty in Essen', WAZ, 7 May 2019.