

**Question for written answer E-004031/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Supporting investments in services of general interest

Services of general interest (SGIs) employ over 60 million workers, contributing approximately 26 % of the EU's GDP and represent a large percentage of the activities that have remained operational right the way through the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic has simultaneously exposed how essential these services are to the welfare of citizens, and how their operations have nevertheless been compromised by years of underinvestment. The European Pillar of Social Rights also enhances the role of SGIs in its principles, addressing, in particular, access to quality and affordable healthcare, long-term care and education. Moreover, the third pillar of the Next Generation EU focuses on strengthening healthcare systems and mentions investment in key infrastructures. These references to SGIs are nonetheless very fragmented across the different policy initiatives and lack a consistent and systematic emphasis on public services and SGIs.

Given the importance of SGIs in ensuring a successful recovery, as well as long-term economic and social resilience, in the framework of the Recovery Plan for Europe:

Will the Commission, on the basis of Article 14 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, include in its future initiatives clear and explicit references to SGIs to support adequate investments and ensure a consistent approach to these services both by the EU and the Member States?