

**Question for written answer E-005370/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Maite Pagazaurtundúa** (Renew)

Subject: EU anti-squatting legislation

Squatting, whether by individuals or organised criminal gangs, has become a European phenomenon. Article 17 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights states that 'everyone has the right to own, use, dispose of and bequeath his or her lawfully acquired possessions' and that 'no one may be deprived of his or her possessions, except in the public interest'.

Nevertheless, the laws governing squatting differ between Member States, and range from one year in prison and a fine of EUR 15 000 in France to up to two years in prison, in the case of gang violence, in Germany. National responses also vary regarding the requirement for owners to lodge a complaint and even for the police to take action in cases of extortion.

1. Has the Commission looked into this situation?
2. Has the Commission considered introducing a legal framework to protect private property and eliminate the lengthy legal obstacles that owners face in order to recover their property?