

**Question for written answer E-002149/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)

Subject: New maternity top-up for pensions in Spain

Mothers who retired in Spain used to have their pensions topped up by an amount that varied depending on how many children they had: mothers with two children received a pension top-up of 5%; those with three children received 10%; and those with four or more children received 15%. The top-up was designed to tackle demographic challenges by increasing pensions proportionally for those with more children. The idea was to compensate them for their efforts and for the social security contributions lost as a result of caring for children. The criterion taken was the basis of their pension, i.e. their contributory effort.

The current government has changed this law – introducing cuts for families with more children and for those who have contributed most to their pensions during their working lives – by bringing in a fixed top-up of EUR 27 per child per month, up to a maximum of four children. No account is taken of the contributory effort made in the beneficiary's working life. This is a matter of concern for the increasingly impoverished social security system.

1. Does it help equality policies to cut the benefits of women with more children, who have dedicated a larger proportion of their time to their families, often giving up their jobs?
2. Does this measure hamper efforts to address demographic challenges?