

**Question for written answer E-002570/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Hundreds of millions of children live in over-indebted states

According to the UNICEF report, 'COVID-19 and the Looming Debt Crisis', approximately one in eight countries globally spends more on paying its debts than it does on social services. Similarly, in 2019, 25 countries in the world allocated a larger proportion of total public expenditure to debt repayment than to education, health and social protection combined.

A quarter of low- and medium-income countries, home to 200 million children, are currently over-indebted or at risk of over-indebtedness. The report also notes that children living in countries with large debts and limited resources for social protection, education and health have a reduced chance of ever escaping poverty and deprivation. A new international debt restructuring plan with more concessional support for heavily indebted poor countries is vital to protect the rights of children in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of the need for global efforts to protect the right of every child to social protection, education and medical care, what measures does the Commission intend to take to achieve this objective?