

**Question for written answer E-001439/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Miriam Lexmann (PPE)

Subject: Eurostat data on Slovakia

According to Eurostat data, Slovakia's poverty rate increased significantly relative to other European countries in 2016.

As a result, the data reported in 2023 suggest that Slovakia now has one of the lowest standards of living in the EU. However, experts say this does not correspond to reality but was largely caused by changes in the methodology.

The Slovak Statistical Office made a methodological change and calculated new data on imputed rent going back to approximately 1995, and these data were subsequently sent to Eurostat. In 2019, there was a major five-year revision and only the revised data for 2018, 2017 and 2016 were taken into account by Eurostat. For example, Eurostat's data suggest housing costs are two or three times higher than they actually are.

Therefore:

1. Is the Commission aware that Eurostat's methodology has resulted in data from only 2016 being taken into account?
2. Does the Commission acknowledge that these methodological limitations may have had a disproportionate impact on the overall statistics?
3. How do the Commission and Eurostat intend to remedy this situation in the future?

Submitted: 3.5.2023