

**Question for written answer E-001467/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The impact of the EU cohesion policy on the reduction of social inequalities in the EU

The EU cohesion policy is the main EU investment policy aiming to help strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU by reducing imbalances and inequalities between and within the Member States.

However, a recent study¹, which was based on a survey of 2.4 million respondents in the EU and evaluated the cohesion policy's impact on income inequality in 231 European regions from 1989 to 2017, points to its contradictory effect. Although the study confirms that the EU cohesion policy has an overall positive effect on individual regions' average economic growth, the policy seems to primarily benefit high-skilled and richer households. It does not reach low-skilled workers or households facing poverty and social exclusion, and therefore exacerbates inequality within EU regions.

In the light of these recent empirical findings and the recommendation to shift from place-based policies to more people-based policies, does the Commission plan to review the cohesion policy's effectiveness in reducing intraregional inequalities and propose the relevant changes to the eligibility criteria? What other concrete measures will the Commission take to ensure that the EU cohesion policy complements the EU's social policy goals?

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¹ Lang, V., Redeker, N., and Bischof, D., *Place-Based Policies and Inequality Within Regions*, OSF Preprints, 3 August 2022, <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/2xmzj>.