

**Question for written answer E-001941/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Evelyn Regner (S&D)

Subject: Discrimination against single-parent households

The Commission has set itself the goal of significantly reducing child poverty. According to Eurostat figures, single-parent households are the type of family most affected by poverty and social exclusion. Statistics Austria's child-cost analysis from 2021 has shown that, in Austria, it costs twice as much to have a child in a single-parent household than in a household with two or more adults. This was calculated using child consumption units, and it revealed that the at-risk-of-poverty threshold for children in single-parent households is much lower than for children belonging to households with two or more adults. Furthermore, an estimated 30 % of single parents that are actually suffering from poverty have no access to financial support.

Given that in many European countries, at national level, the at-risk-of-poverty threshold serves as an income limit for financial aid, the following questions arise for the Commission:

1. Is the Commission aware that the inaccurate reporting of child consumption units makes it impossible to know the real extent of child poverty in single-parent households?
2. Does the Commission agree that adjusting child consumption units would give more families access to financial aid and thus contribute significantly to reducing child poverty and preventing the social exclusion of more children?
3. Does the Commission intend to take action on this matter and set separate European child consumption unit standards for single-parent households and for households with two or more adults?

Submitted: 14.6.2023