

**Question for written answer E-002911/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sira Rego (The Left)

Subject: Possible discrimination of single-parent families in the award of grants for school meals in the Community of Madrid

The Community of Madrid has begun to refuse grants for school meals to single-parent families, demanding paperwork proving parent-child relationships for two parents¹. In the case of single-parent families, the administration is requesting documentation that they do not have or that does not even exist.

The rules for the award of these grants offer a very restrictive interpretation of single-parenthood², with only two situations being covered: where the parents are or have been married (which requires a death certificate or a legal separation order) or where the parents are unmarried – in which case they demand basically the same documents.

Such an interpretation could be at odds with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, breaching, in particular, Chapter III on equality (Articles 20 and 21) and Directive 1158/2029. And bearing in mind that the European Anti-Poverty Network identifies single-parent families as families at greater risk of exclusion³:

1. Does the Commission consider that these grants could be violating European legislation?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to support single-parent families?
3. Will the Commission ask the authorities of the Community of Madrid to revise this legislation?

Submitted: 3.10.2023

¹ <https://elpais.com/espana/madrid/2023-10-03/la-comunidad-de-madrid-deniega-la-beca-comedor-a-madres-solteras-por-no-constar-el-padre-en-el-libro-de-familia.html>

² <https://www.comunidad.madrid/servicios/educacion/becas-comedor-escolar>

³ <https://www.eapn.es/estadodepobreza/>