

**Question for oral answer O-000025/2021  
to the Council**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Subject: European Child Guarantee

Every child in poverty must have access to free and good-quality healthcare, education and childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition through a well-funded Child Guarantee. The European Parliament has been calling for a Child Guarantee for years, as levels of child poverty in Europe have been unacceptable and existing policies insufficient. This has created an intergenerational cycle of poverty which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving millions of children and families in an even more precarious socio-economic situation.

1. How will the Council guarantee an integrated and cross-sectoral EU approach to decisively tackle child poverty and social exclusion, ensuring effective and free access to education, childcare and healthcare? How does the Council plan to meet the new EU 2030 target to lift at least 5 million children out of poverty or social exclusion?
2. How will the Member States strengthen their policies in the areas of child protection, education, housing, healthcare, nutrition and access to outside school services, such as sporting and cultural activities for children, including the most vulnerable children such as those with disabilities, those from ethnic minorities, those from low-income households and those transitioning from institutional care?
3. A number of EU financial instruments are available for tackling child poverty and exclusion, but these must be backed up by sustainable and structural national investments. There is often a lack of cohesion between EU funding and national policies for children and the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The European Semester could serve to better address children's access to the five areas in the Country Reports and the Country-Specific Recommendations. How will the Member States ensure an efficient use of funds as well as national resources for the implementation of the Child Guarantee, while submitting their national action plans swiftly, taking account of actual needs at national, regional and local levels?
4. How will the Member States ensure that their policies are properly planned, monitored and reviewed, are tailored to local and individual needs, promote the rights of children and investments on social impacts, and prevent discrimination? How will the national coordinators for the Child Guarantee coordinate and exchange best practices? How will the Child Guarantee ensure better cooperation between the various stakeholders involved, including the relevant authorities, national equality bodies, civil society, children and parents, social services and the private sector, which are key to its success?

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