

**Question for oral answer O-000026/2021
to the Commission**

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 Commission ensure that EU financial instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), ReactEU and Invest EU complement the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) in the effective implementation of the Council recommendation for a European Child Guarantee? How will the Commission ensure that all Member States allocate adequate resources, particularly in the context of their national action plans?
2. Disruptions to learning caused by the COVID-19 crisis have exacerbated existing educational inequalities. How will the Child Guarantee address disparities related to internet access in schools, to online learning tools and digital learning material, as well as those outside of formal education? How will the Child Guarantee promote the integration of digital skills from the outset in early childhood education and tackle school drop-outs?
3. How will the Commission ensure that Member States take an integrated and intersectional approach to tackling child poverty and social exclusion? In practice, how can the Child Guarantee strengthen Member States' policies on housing, healthcare and nutrition for the most vulnerable children, such as those who are homeless, those with disabilities, those from ethnic minorities and those from low-income households, as well as facilitate the transition from institutional to community/family-based care?
4. How will the Commission evaluate and monitor the impact of the Child Guarantee? How will it ensure consistency between the Guarantee and other EU policy instruments and beyond, as well as the headline targets in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan? What will be the institutional structure for mainstreaming such implementation, and how will Parliament be included in this?

Submitted: 26.3.2021

Lapses: 27.6.2021