

**Question for written answer P-011463/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Marije Cornelissen (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Criminalisation of homelessness in Hungary

The Hungarian Government is, once again, violating fundamental rights by adopting the amendment of the Act on Misdemeanours allowing local municipalities to create 'homeless-free zones': areas where living on the street is considered to be an offence. Building of shacks - which might be the last chance for many to survive in the approaching winter given that there are not enough places for homeless people in the shelter system - is now illegal in all public areas.

The Hungarian Constitutional Court ruled a previous attempt to criminalise homelessness unconstitutional. The Commission expressed its concerns and the Parliament proposed solutions both with regard to homelessness and social housing. Despite the warnings and having amended the constitution, the Hungarian Government reintroduced the amendment of the Act on Misdemeanours in a slightly modified form, but with almost identical content - ultimately reintroducing the criminalisation of street homelessness.

At times of crisis, when the vulnerable need most help, the Hungarian Government violates fundamental rights, stigmatises homeless people and physically excludes them from society.

1. In view of the above, what immediate action is the Commission planning to take to make sure that fundamental rights, including the right to human dignity, are upheld and protected by the EU, in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Articles 1, 3, 4 and 21 thereof?
2. What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the Hungarian authorities follow up on the country-specific recommendation related to social exclusion within the framework of the European Semester?