

**Question for written answer P-000783/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Guaranteed European minimum income

According to Eurostat, 124.5 million people, or 24.8% of the population in the 28 EU Member States, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2012. In a context of economic crisis and austerity, this figure is continuing to increase from year to year, the highest levels being reported in Bulgaria (49%), Romania (40%) and Latvia (40%).

In view of the deepening social inequalities, creating disparities between not only Member States but also regions of the same country, it is arguably the duty of the Commission to initiate discussions with a view establishing an adequate statutory European minimum income.

As early as October 2010, the European Parliament adopted a resolution concerning a minimum income as a means of combating poverty and called on the Commission to submit a proposal along these lines. Similarly, on 10 December 2013 the Economic and Social Committee adopted an opinion stressing the urgent need for an adequate guaranteed minimum income in the European Union.

Given that Article 1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union states that human dignity is inviolable and must be respected and protected, is the Commission considering the financial possibilities of ensuring a minimum income, for example by setting up a European fund for this purpose?