

**Question for written answer P-000418/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Elena Valenciano (S&D) and Iratxe García Pérez (S&D)

Subject: Competences of Member State governments in combating the gender pay gap

The Spanish Prime Minister said yesterday: 'I believe that people in government should be very cautious when distinguishing between things that fall within our competence and things that do not, and we certainly have no competence when it comes to setting equal wages. We are not going to get involved in that.'

Directive 2006/54/EC on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation establishes the legal provisions that Member States are to adopt in order to guarantee equal pay.

Only recently, in November 2017, the Commission adopted the action plan to tackle the pay gap, which contains measures to improve the application of the equal pay principle, combat segregation in occupations and sectors, ensure that women's responsibilities are properly valued and provide more information about the gender pay gap.

1. Does the Commission believe that Member State governments have no competence when it comes to taking action to eradicate the pay gap?
2. If Prime Minister Rajoy is right, how could the European Union fulfil the provisions of the Directive on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation?