

**Priority question for written answer P-001093/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Indexation

Austria started the indexation of family allowances on 1 January 2019, and the Commission launched infringement proceedings shortly afterwards on 24 January. In July 2019, a reasoned opinion was sent to Austria. The EU rules on the coordination of social security systems (Regulation (EC) No 883/2004) do not allow a Member State to reduce cash benefits granted to persons insured under its legislation solely because they or their family members reside in another Member State. These rules also prohibit discrimination on grounds of nationality. Any reduction in family benefits due to the fact that children are residing abroad also constitutes an infringement of Regulation (EU) No 492/2011, namely the principle of equal treatment of workers who are nationals of another Member State.

In July, the Commission asked Austria to inform it of the measures taken within a period of two months. When this deadline elapsed, Austria requested a one-month extension, which expired in October 2019. Thus, for over a year workers and their families have been victims of discrimination, which is contrary to European law.

1. When will the Commission proceed to the next step in this matter, i.e. referral of the case to the Court of Justice?
2. What is the current state of play in these proceedings, and how has Austria responded to the reasoned opinion of the Commission?