

**Question for written answer E-015498/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Julie Ward (S&D)**

Subject: Individualisation of income and costs measurements in anti-poverty policy for increased gender equality

The European Union requires a more robust strategy on poverty reduction, with new political impetus to tackle the problem, if there is to be any prospect of meeting the 2020 targets. Increasing gender equality and mainstreaming gender into all aspects of poverty alleviation and social inclusion policy at all levels is a necessary aspect of that political push.

Among a variety of problems with Member States' poverty reduction policies is that much of social and economic data collection and policy-making on income and costs is centred on households rather than individuals as constituent units. This assumes households to be identical and equitable. In reality, there is a great divergence across households, and serious structural and persistent gender inequality in income distribution and access to resources within households. Overlooking these inequalities renders both data and policy-making potentially ineffective.

An approach of individualisation of income and costs measurements and policy objectives is important, so that social and economic rights are also individualised.

In the light of the above, what steps will the Commission take to ensure that this approach is included in European poverty reduction and social inclusion policy, in its country-specific recommendations to the Member States and the European Semester?