

**Question for written answer E-014894/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Poverty and social exclusion in the EU

The Member States have been gradually affected by poverty or social exclusion. According to Eurostat statistics for 2014, 24.4 % of the population of the EU (122 million people) was at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In other words, almost one quarter of the population in the EU was in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. Between the years of 2010-2012, there was a consistent increase in the percentage of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU. After a slight decrease in 2013, the proportion remained nearly stable in 2014 but higher than its 2008 level (23.8 %). Decreasing the percentage of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU is one of the significant goals of the Europe 2020 strategy.

1. What initiatives does the Commission intend to take to reduce the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU?