

FORM FOR TABLING A QUESTION FOR
ORAL ANSWER WITH DEBATE (Rule 128)

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COUNCIL

COMMISSION

AUTHOR(S): Thomas Händel on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

SUBJECT: on "Minimum income schemes in the European Union"
(please specify)

TEXT:

One of the EU2020 targets is to lift 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion. Currently over 120 million Europeans are in this situation, including due to persistent unemployment, low wages and the weakening of social protection schemes, particularly in countries most affected by the crisis. President Juncker referred in his inaugural address to the need of providing an "adequate income" to all Europeans but the strategy of the EU remains unclear. While employment is a crucial way out of poverty, minimum income schemes could be key instruments to guarantee social protection and greater equality of opportunities. In its resolution of 20.10.2010, the EP stresses that an adequate minimum income should be set at a level of at least 60% of the median income of Member States in order to cover basic living costs while contributing to economic growth and social cohesion. This approach could be promoted by the Commission in order to implement an adequate and accessible minimum income by the Member States in line with national practices. Having regard to Articles 9 and 153.1.h and j TFEU, and 34 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights:

1. How does the Commission define an "adequate income" and what features does it entail?
2. When will the Commission assess minimum income schemes in the EU and promote benchmarking and best practices as requested by the EP in its resolution of 14.04.2016? What programmes could be used to provide administrative support to Member States?
3. What measures will the Commission take on a minimum income in the follow up of its recommendation 2008/867/EC?
4. How will the Commission ensure that in countries under financial adjustment programmes, funding for Guaranteed Minimum Income does not substitute other welfare provisions?
5. How will the Commission help Member States to provide opportunities to prevent long-term dependency on minimum income?

Signature(s):

Date: 15.06.2016

