

**Question for written answer E-000191/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Child benefits in Austria

The Austrian Government is planning a new law to index child benefits to the cost of living in the Member State where the children reside. According to the Austrian Government, this measure will affect 132 000 children in a number of Member States. As most of the Member States are against the indexation of social benefits, we would therefore like to ask the Commission to answer the following questions:

1. Does it constitute discrimination against EU citizens, if child benefits paid by a Member State are indexed to the cost of living in the country of residence of the children?
2. EU citizens pay taxes and contribute to national social welfare systems in the same way as domestic citizens. Does this mean that they are legally entitled to benefit in the same way? (Does this rule apply in the case of child benefits?)
3. Is the measure planned by Austria in conformity with EU law, in particular, Regulation 883/2004?¹

¹ Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems, OJ L 166, 30.04.2004, p. 1.