

**Question for written answer E-004878/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Clotilde Armand** (Renew)

**Subject:** The formulation and monitoring of country-specific recommendations on poverty reduction and research and development areas

According to Special Report 16/2020 of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) <sup>1</sup>, the implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) has led to slow progress in areas such as poverty reduction and research. While this applies to the whole of the EU, in some Member States the situation is particularly worrisome. In Romania, 23.5 % of people are at risk of income poverty after social transfers <sup>2</sup>, while severely materially deprived people make up 16.8 % of the population <sup>3</sup>. The crisis brought on by the coronavirus risks exacerbating this situation and demands stronger action on poverty and social exclusion and close monitoring. At the moment, the ECA is highlighting the failure to set and monitor concrete targets in these fields.

1. Does the Commission plan to execute the ECA's recommendation to set up a publicly available multi-annual database of all CSRs and their implementation status by 2022?
2. How can the Commission improve its formulation of CSRs to reduce the imbalances among the Member States and make sure that priority is given to the countries with the highest levels of poverty?
3. Does the Commission plan to incentivise cooperation between universities and the business sector through a CSR target for Romania to improve its industrial structures and research capabilities?

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<sup>1</sup> Special Report 16/2020: The European Semester – Country Specific Recommendations address important issues but need better implementation

<sup>2</sup> EU-28: 17.1 %

<sup>3</sup> EU-28: 5.9 %