

**Question for oral answer O-000117/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Preventive measures to tackle the gender pension gap in the EU

The gender pension gap, which reflects accumulated disadvantages experienced by women throughout their working lives and is the result of differences in participation in the labour market between women and men, has reached a striking level of 39 %, despite advances in the area of gender equality and investment in social inclusion policies.

The gender pension gap is a result of women's lower participation and disadvantaged position in the labour market, which mainly arises from an insufficient work-life balance. Women work less and for shorter hours because of limited access to care services and because they spend disproportionately more time on unpaid domestic work.

In order to promote long-term, inclusive growth, we need to treat the reduction of the gender pension gap as an economic target, closely related to the Europe 2020 objectives. The achievement of the employment rate target of 75 % for women across the EU (already met in the case of men at EU level) is crucial for ensuring more equal future pensions and the long-term sustainability of the pension systems.

1. What action will the Commission take to overcome the gender pension gap and address its underlying causes? What measures will it implement to prevent the future gender pension gap, especially in the area of enhancing women's presence and equal opportunities in the labour market and work-life balance policies, with special regard to particularly difficult circumstances such as women raising children with disabilities?
2. How will the Commission monitor the gender pension gap in the Member States? Will it establish the gender pension gap indicator as the key determinant of the effectiveness of gender equality policies and include it in the Joint Assessment Framework and the Social Indicators of the European Semester?

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