

**Question for oral answer O-000050/2022
to the Council**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Subject: Adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion

Living in dignity is a human right. In 2021, 95.4 million people in the EU, representing 21.7 % of the EU's population¹, were at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living risk further exacerbating the plight of individuals and households in precarious socio-economic situations.

Minimum income schemes (MISs) serve as a social safety net guaranteeing a minimum standard of living and the right to dignity at all stages of life. For people lacking sufficient resources and decent, stable employment, access to an adequate minimum income plays an essential role in reducing poverty, social exclusion and inequalities. Such schemes should be combined with incentives and measures enabling labour-market activation for people who are able to work.

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs would like to ask the Council:

1. How will the Council encourage Member States to gradually set their MISs to at least the level of the national at-risk-of-poverty threshold while providing incentives to (re)integrate people who can work into the labour market? How will Member States ensure that beneficiaries of MISs are not forced to accept precarious work? How does the Council intend to improve the coverage of the existing national MISs?
2. How will Member States tackle the non-take-up problem? What mechanisms will they establish to raise awareness and ensure that those eligible to receive support actually benefit from it?
3. How will the Member States ensure that MISs do not substitute for social-policy measures in other areas such as housing, healthcare, disability support or labour-market integration?
4. How are Member States cooperating with social partners, civil society and other relevant stakeholders on the design, implementation and monitoring of MISs, and where do they see room for improvement?

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¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_poverty_and_social_exclusion#:~:text=In%202021%2C%2095.4%20million%20people,21.7%20%25%20of%20the%20EU%20population.