

Question for written answer E-004949/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Role of food banks in providing basic services and impact on the welfare state

Many EU Member States have witnessed a sharp rise in the number of food banks and similar support systems in recent years. Those organisations play an ever-bigger role in providing basic services to those facing hardship. Food banks are often a symptom of social emergencies: they plug the gap when social protection systems are unable to meet basic food needs. The bigger they grow, the more pressing the question as to whether the European social model is shifting away from aspiring to solidarity and a decent livelihood.

Despite their role in preventing food waste, the rise in food banks raises questions about social justice, state responsibility and long-term poverty reduction strategies.

1. What key socio-economic drivers has the Commission identified to explain the expansion of food banks in the European Union, and to what extent does it consider that growth to be a sign of structural deficiencies in social protection systems?
2. What does the Commission make of the long-term social consequences of these developments, in particular with regard to the dignity of those affected and restoring paths to regular, income-based supply channels?
3. What political measures is the Commission planning or considering to effectively reduce poverty and food insecurity to prevent food banks from becoming a permanent substitute for state responsibility?

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