

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001980/24
to the Commission
Gabriela Firea (S&D)
(8 October 2024)**

Subject: Reliable statistics on homelessness and potential solutions for homeless people

As we approach the cold season, the issue of homelessness and the pinpointing of potential solutions to improve their situation are back on the agenda. Official statistics showed in 2022 that almost one in ten people in the EU spent over 40% of their income on housing. The groups most at risk of homelessness due to a lack of access to housing are families with children and single-parent households. On top of this, overcrowding, mould, damp, exposure to pollution and poor sanitary conditions are an increasing cause for concern when assessing housing conditions themselves.

What strategy does the Commission have for working in cooperation with the Member States to improve the gathering of statistics on the number of homeless people — especially in big cities, where they are concentrated — so as to facilitate the pinpointing of viable solutions?

Submitted: 8.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(22 January 2025)**

The EU reference source for social inclusion at the European level is the survey-based data collection on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) ⁽¹⁾.

Persons living in collective households, in institutions or not having a registered address are excluded from the target population as the sampling frames are drawn from the permanent address registers of population.

To address this data gap, in 2023 the European Statistical System included a set of questions to the EU-SILC on housing difficulties ⁽²⁾ experienced by individuals, which will be repeated every six years.

The questions shed light on respondents' past experience of homelessness and housing difficulties (reasons for difficulties, duration of the most recent experience, how individuals overcame these challenges, and renting difficulties).

Respondents were considered as having experienced homelessness if during their lifetime they had no place of their own (owned or rented) and were forced to stay with friends or family, use emergency or temporary accommodation, live in a place not intended as a permanent home, or sleep in a public space.

The main findings of this data collection are summarised in a statistic explained article ⁽³⁾ and results are published in Eurostat's online database ⁽⁴⁾ for the EU and individual Member States by main socioeconomic breakdowns.

⁽¹⁾ Information on data — Eurostat

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R0029>

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_housing_and_renting_difficulties

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/explore/all/popul?lang=en&subtheme=livcon.ilc_ip.ilc_pn&display=list&sort=category&extractionId=ilc_lvhd