

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002432/24
to the Commission
Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE)
(6 November 2024)**

Subject: Measures to eradicate poverty — International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

I should like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Poverty remains a major challenge in many Member States and, in Spain, it is now further exacerbated by the housing crisis. What specific measures is the Commission proposing to ensure that European policies contribute to the eradication of poverty, in particular for the most vulnerable groups?
2. The difficulty of securing housing is further exacerbating poverty in Spain. How will the Commission ensure that Member States' housing policies focus on providing decent housing as a fundamental right and that the freedom afforded to the housing market does not worsen social exclusion?
3. The Human Rights Watch World Report 2024 points out that the risk of poverty in Spain is greater in single-mother households. What measures will the Commission take to protect these families?

Submitted: 6.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(9 January 2025)**

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan proposed an ambitious and realistic EU target to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030.

All Member States have defined national targets relating to this EU headline target. A number of EU initiatives ⁽¹⁾ have been adopted that directly relate to poverty reduction and their implementation at national level will be key for to achieve the EU target.

Looking forward, the political guidelines 2024-2029 ⁽²⁾ announced a new action plan for implementing the European pillar of social rights.

The first-ever EU anti-poverty strategy will aim to help people to get access to the essential protections and services they need, along with addressing the root causes of poverty.

The political guidelines also stress the importance of affordable housing. The Commissioner for energy and housing has been tasked to develop the first-ever European Affordable Housing Plan and — with effect from 1 February 2025 — a Housing Task Force is to be created within the Commission to coordinate all housing-related matters, including those that the Honourable Member mentioned.

The Commission will ensure that it has a robust social component catering to the needs of the most vulnerable, including those experiencing or risking homelessness.

The European Social Fund+ in Spain has been key in supporting vulnerable groups, particularly single mothers, through targeted investments.

The work-life balance directive ⁽³⁾ and the Council Recommendation on early childhood education and care ⁽⁴⁾ aim at increasing female labour-market participation, including for single mothers.

⁽¹⁾ European Child Guarantee, Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004 of 14 June 2021 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021H1004>; Directive on adequate minimum wages, Directive (EU) 2022/2041 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022L2041>; Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion, Council Recommendation (EU) 2023/C 41/01 of 30 January 2023 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023H0203%2801%29>; European Platform on Combating Homelessness, Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness of 21 June 2021; Council Recommendation on Access to social protection, Council Recommendation (2019/C 387/01) of 8 November 2019 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019H1115%2801%29>; Commission Communication on better assessing the distributional impact of Member States' policies, COM(2022) 494 final — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0494>

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019L1158>

⁽⁴⁾ Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on early childhood education and care: the Barcelona targets for 2030 2022/C 484/01 — [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H1220\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H1220(01))