

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002551/25
to the Commission
Arash Saeidi (The Left)
(25 June 2025)**

Subject: The dynamics of wealth transfer and taxation of inheritances in the European Union

In 2022 and 2024, the Joint Research Centre published two studies on inheritance tax and wealth transfer (JRC128480 and JRC138223). They estimate that the annual volume of inheritances in Austria will double by 2050 to reach EUR 41 billion, and that only about 0.2% of heirs will receive more than EUR 1 million. In the five countries studied, taxation of wealth transfers remains very limited (less than 1% of overall tax revenues), mainly due to tax exemptions for heirs who are direct relatives or for high-wealth transfers. In Austria, even a modest tax, with an exemption threshold of EUR 1 million, could generate up to EUR 1.8 billion per year, without affecting the overwhelmingly vast majority of wealth transfers.

European data shows that 50% to 60% of the wealth in the Union is inherited. Intergenerational accumulation of wealth exacerbates inequalities and undermines equal opportunity. The EU has no comprehensive, up-to-date assessment of the scale, dynamics and socioeconomic consequences of inheritance at EU level.

1. Does the Commission intend to apply the inheritance taxation simulation model (INTAXMOD), based on data from the Household Finance and Consumption Survey, to all Member States?
2. Does the Commission intend to carry out a comprehensive study on the impact of wealth transfers on wealth inequality, intergenerational mobility and access to housing?

Submitted: 25.6.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2025)**

The INTAXMOD microsimulation model, developed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), estimates inherited wealth and the potential long-term government revenues from inheritance taxation under various demographic and wealth projection scenarios. It has been applied to six EU countries: Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy ⁽¹⁾ and Austria ⁽²⁾.

The model uses data from the Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS), coordinated by the European Central Bank. The JRC intends to expand it to all Member States with available HFCS data where studies on inheritance taxation can inform policy discussions. Extension will depend on data availability and policy relevance.

The recent 2025 Annual Report on Taxation ⁽³⁾ of the Commission highlights growing concerns about wealth inequality and the role of taxation in addressing it. It underlines how the taxation of wealth transfers can contribute to reducing wealth concentration and improving equality of opportunity.

The Commission and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are jointly working on a study on inheritance taxes and gifts and their implications for wealth, expected by December 2025.

A study on wealth concentration and inequality is already available ⁽⁴⁾. Drawing on this study, the Commission's 2024 Annual Review on Employment and Social Developments in Europe ⁽⁵⁾ provides an in-depth examination of patterns of wealth.

The Commission recognises the importance of intergenerational dynamics-such as the role of inheritances in shaping wealth distribution and access to housing-and will continue to monitor and analyse these issues in the context of broader policy efforts to promote fairness and social mobility across the EU. The Commission will also consider wealth-related issues in its Anti Poverty Strategy.

⁽¹⁾ Krenek, A., Schratzenstaller-Atzinger, M., Grunberger, K. and Thiemann, A., INTAXMOD — Inheritance and Gift Taxation in the context of Ageing, European Commission, 2022, JRC128480.

⁽²⁾ European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Grünberger, K., Derndorfer, J. and Schnetzer, M., Inheritances in Austria: A model estimation of intergenerational wealth transfers up to 2050, European Commission, Seville, 2024, JRC138223.

⁽³⁾ Commission: Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, Annual report on taxation 2025 — Review of taxation policies in the EU Member States, Publications Office of the EU, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2778/6367826>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/mapping-trends-and-gaps-household-wealth-across-oecd-countries_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/empl/esde-2024/>.