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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.1.2026)

The 2023 Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion¹ serves as the guiding compass for national minimum income schemes.

The 2025 Joint Report of the Commission and the Social Protection Committee² identifies opportunities to improve the Spanish minimum income scheme, particularly by establishing a clear methodology for setting benefit levels, speeding up the benefit approval process and providing further targeted labour market measures for beneficiaries. It also flags Spain as one of the six Member States, which do not have fully non-discriminatory eligibility criteria.

The Commission is aware of the recent report from the Spanish Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility³, and its concerns about the activation component.

During the 2025 European Semester cycle, the Commission analysed the evolution of Spain's minimum income⁴ and child support complement⁵, noting their key role in tackling poverty but also persistent challenges, notably low take-up rates⁶. Moreover, the 2025 Report mentioned above shows that in Spain minimum income recipients are more likely to be placed on standard activation measures, not targeted to their needs as minimum income recipients.

To address these challenges, Spain is pursuing targeted support, system reforms and improved regional management. For instance, one of the investments under Spain's Recovery and Resilience Plan aims to better link social inclusion policies with the minimum income scheme, as included in the seventh instalment⁷.

The Commission will monitor the implementation of the 2025 Country Specific Recommendation for Spain⁸, on reducing child poverty and improving the efficiency, coverage, and adequacy of social transfers and assistance.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2023_041_R_0001 - (2023/C 41/01).

² Joint Report of the European Commission and the Social Protection Committee: 'The 2025 Minimum Income Report. An overview of the implementation of the 2023 Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion across EU Member States' (adopted by the SPC on 23 September 2025).

³ <https://www.airef.es/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/IMV/Opinion.pdf>.

⁴ Ingreso Mínimo Vital – IMV.

⁵ Complemento de Ayuda para la Infancia – CAPI.

⁶ https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a712afe4-d94e-4333-8333-e8bc1ab63f1e_en?filename=ES_CR_SWD_2025_209_1_EN_autre_document_travail_service_part1_v4.pdf.

⁷ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13075-2025-ADD-1/en/pdf>.

⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3983/oj/eng>.