

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000058/26
to the Commission**

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(12 January 2026)

Subject: The place of child poverty in the upcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

During her State of the Union address, the President of the Commission emphasised the urgent need for an ambitious European Anti-Poverty Strategy, announcing ‘a plan to help eradicate poverty by 2050’ and support from a ‘strong Child Guarantee to shield our children from poverty’. This initiative is welcome. However, it is introduced in the context of the unmet poverty reduction target of 2020 and the current misalignment with the 2030 target ⁽¹⁾. Uncertainty also surrounds funding for tackling child poverty in the upcoming multiannual financial framework. A major response is therefore needed, especially as the number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion has increased by 446 000 since 2019.

Therefore, we would like to ask:

1. How will the Commission ensure that combating child poverty is a central focus of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy and is prioritised in the next multiannual financial framework structure as well as in national spending?
2. Does the Commission intend to include a ‘prevention’ component in the strategy, to safeguard future generations from falling into child poverty and experiencing family separation?
3. Will the strategy establish child-focused indicators to monitor progress, complimenting the existing indicators under the Child Guarantee?

Submitted: 12.1.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(12 February 2026)

The upcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy will present a framework to step up the fight against poverty. In the Council Recommendation on establishing the European Child Guarantee (ECG) ⁽¹⁾, the Member States are recommended to step up their investments where necessary.

In addition, the Commission will adopt a dedicated initiative to strengthen the ECG, as announced in the 2026 Commission Work Programme ⁽²⁾.

The Commission has also proposed the ECG among four key areas of social measures to be supported by EU funding in the National and Regional Partnership Plans ⁽³⁾ in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

The upcoming EU’s Anti-Poverty Strategy will have both a strong supportive and preventive approach, also in light of increasing cost-of-living pressures.

As regards poverty prevention, the ECG plays a crucial role: by guaranteeing access of children in need to key services, it aims to break the transmission of disadvantages across generations.

Progress towards the EU’s 2030 child poverty reduction complementary target is monitored through the European Semester, the Social Scoreboard, and the Social Protection Committee’s annual reports ⁽⁴⁾.

¹ European Commission: Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, *Employment and social developments in Europe 2025*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2767/9505984>.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2021.223.01.0014.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A223%3ATOC.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0870>.

⁽³⁾ Annex VI of the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

⁽⁴⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/2025-social-protection-committee-annual-report-published-2025-11-21_en.

The EU-level monitoring framework for the ECG ⁽⁵⁾ provides comparable data on children in need's access to services. The benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children provides additional data of relevance to the fight against child poverty. Monitoring of poverty developments in the EU's Anti-Poverty Strategy will build on those existing frameworks.

⁽⁵⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/social-protection-committee/indicators-sub-group/monitoring-and-benchmarking-frameworks_en?prefLang=fr.