

Basic information	
2025/2095(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Developing a new EU anti-poverty strategy Subject 4.10.05 Social inclusion, poverty, minimum income	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Employment and Social Affairs		OLIVEIRA João (The Left)	06/05/2025
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Women's Rights and Gender Equality		GÁLVEZ Lina (S&D)	11/06/2025
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion		MÎNZATU Roxana	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/06/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/12/2025	Vote in committee		
22/12/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0260/2025	Summary
11/02/2026	Debate in Parliament		
12/02/2026	Decision by Parliament	T10-0049/2026	Summary
12/02/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/2095(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative

Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/10/02836

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE774.256	03/06/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE774.606	04/07/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE775.539	24/07/2025	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE774.456	01/09/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0260/2025	22/12/2025	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0049/2026	12/02/2026	Summary

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
PIETIKÄINEN Sirpa	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	FEMM	03/07/2025	European Anti Poverty Network
KEMP Martine	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	25/06/2025	Social Platform
Ó RÍORDÁIN Aodhán	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	24/06/2025	Social Platform
KEMP Martine	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	24/06/2025	Eurochild AISBL
KEMP Martine	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	24/06/2025	Caritas Europa
Ó RÍORDÁIN Aodhán	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	23/06/2025	Eurochild AISBL
Ó RÍORDÁIN Aodhán	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	23/06/2025	COFACE S.A.
Ó RÍORDÁIN Aodhán	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	23/06/2025	Eurodiaconia
KEMP Martine	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	20/06/2025	CentButtek
PETROV Hristo	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	19/06/2025	Caritas Europa
PETROV Hristo	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	19/06/2025	Eurochild AISBL
PETROV Hristo	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	17/06/2025	European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network
PETROV Hristo	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	17/06/2025	Social Platform
PETROV Hristo	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	17/06/2025	ATD Quart Monde

Developing a new EU anti-poverty strategy

2025/2095(INI) - 22/12/2025 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by João OLIVEIRA (The Left, PT) on developing a new EU anti-poverty strategy.

A strategy aimed at eradicating poverty

Members are concerned that in 2024, **93.3 million people** in the EU were still at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including 20 million children – one in four – and 27 million people were experiencing acute material and social deprivation. They are calling for a **comprehensive** approach to prevention to address the root causes of the problem and tackle the multidimensional aspects of poverty and social exclusion.

The report recalled that poverty disproportionately affects marginalised and vulnerable groups of society and that the EU has committed, under the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) action plan, to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030, including at least 5 million children. Without a paradigm shift in the approach to combating poverty, and without adequate funding, the EU and its Member States will not achieve these poverty reduction objectives.

Members called on the Commission to present a **comprehensive, ambitious and adequately funded anti-poverty strategy** that includes the following general objectives and guidelines:

(a) recognition of poverty as a **violation of human dignity** undermining the full realisation of human rights and as a basis for the promotion of a rights-based approach in line with international legal frameworks;

(b) the setting of the goal of **urgently eradicating poverty by 2035 at the latest**, building on the standards of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the EPSR, while also developing interim progress indicators, clear milestones and a monitoring framework enabling adequate coordination of policies and funding needs;

(c) proper **coordination** between the Commission and the Member States, and where applicable with regional authorities, respecting the principle of subsidiarity, to achieve this goal;

(d) a **comprehensive, people-centred and integrated life-cycle approach** to long-term anti-poverty policies, combining universal and targeted measures starting in childhood and throughout all stages of life, with the goal of eradicating poverty and promoting social inclusion as a cross-cutting criterion in sectoral policies;

(e) **participation by people** with lived experience of poverty in defining, implementing and evaluating policies that affect them, in an inclusive, effective and transparent manner that goes hand in hand with a methodology and capacity building;

(f) a fundamental and horizontal principle of **non-discrimination** throughout the anti-poverty strategy to tackle structural inequalities and societal stigmas rooted in discrimination that exacerbate poverty and social exclusion;

(g) the allocation of **adequate and sustained budgetary resources** for anti-poverty measures through the MFF and national budgetary mechanisms.

Fair working conditions and a more equitable distribution of income and wealth

Members called on the Commission and Member States to ensure that the objective of **full employment and decent employment**, as well as **adequate social protection**, services for all, and a fair distribution of income and wealth, as a guideline for economic and social policies. The report recommended, *inter alia*:

- strengthening public employment services, training pathways and job search assistance systems for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups, including the long-term unemployed and the low-skilled;

- supporting women's entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities, particularly in rural and island areas;

- ensuring that education is accessible to children with disabilities;

- guaranteeing access to essential goods and services, such as food, energy, water, housing, transport and communications, at affordable prices;

- significantly increasing public investment in policies guaranteeing social rights, ensuring universal access to quality public services as well as goods and services of general economic and social interest, such as decent housing, food, water, sanitation, energy, transport, communications and cultural and leisure activities;

- implementing and expanding programmes and measures, such as 'Housing First' initiatives, aimed at combating homelessness;

- adopting effective measures and policies aimed at implementing the principle of 'equal pay for equal work', by combating inequalities and discrimination in the workplace;

- tackling youth poverty and socioeconomic inequalities.

A strategy focused on child poverty

The report specifically recommended:

- ensuring that the poverty reduction strategy combats child poverty through a **life-cycle approach**, given that the early years of children's lives are crucial for their physical, mental, cognitive, social and emotional development;
- fully implementing without delay the **European Child Guarantee**, ensuring that it has a specific budget of at least EUR 20 billion in the 2028-2034 MFF, implemented through the ESF+;
- strengthening child-focused **social protection systems** by providing specific benefits for children in need, such as family allowances, school meals and cost reduction programmes for cultural, sporting, leisure and extracurricular activities;
- guaranteeing **every child's right to a family life**, meaning that poverty or precarious housing should never be used as the sole reasons for placing children in institutional care.

Developing a new EU anti-poverty strategy

2025/2095(INI) - 12/02/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 385 votes to 141, with 53 abstentions, a resolution on developing a new EU anti-poverty strategy.

A strategy aimed at eradicating poverty

Members are concerned that in 2024, **93.3 million people** in the EU were still at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including 20 million children – one in four – and 27 million people were experiencing acute material and social deprivation. They are calling for a **comprehensive approach** to prevention to address the root causes of the problem and tackle the multidimensional aspects of poverty and social exclusion as well as their interrelationships, with regard to access to quality jobs, social protection and minimum income, public services, education, early intervention for children, healthcare, food, housing, energy, and taxation.

Recalling that poverty disproportionately affects **marginalised and vulnerable groups** of society (women, Roma and Travellers, people experiencing homelessness, children in institutional care, LGBTQIA+ individuals, older and younger people, persons with disabilities), the resolution stressed the need for targeted measures to address this, paying particular attention to those most vulnerable to extreme poverty.

Members called on the Commission to present a **comprehensive, ambitious and adequately funded anti-poverty strategy** that includes the following general objectives and guidelines:

- (a) recognition of poverty as a **violation of human dignity** undermining the full realisation of human rights and as a basis for the promotion of a rights-based approach in line with international legal frameworks;
- (b) the setting of the goal of **urgently eradicating poverty by 2035 at the latest**, building on the standards of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the EPSR, while also developing interim progress indicators, clear milestones and a monitoring framework enabling adequate coordination of policies and funding needs;
- (c) adopt a **comprehensive, people-centred and integrated life-cycle approach** to long-term anti-poverty policies, combining universal and targeted measures starting in childhood and throughout all stages of life;
- (d) **participation** by people with lived experience of poverty in defining, implementing and evaluating policies that affect them, in an inclusive, effective and transparent manner that goes hand in hand with a methodology and capacity building;
- (e) a fundamental and horizontal principle of **non-discrimination** throughout the anti-poverty strategy to tackle structural inequalities and societal stigmas rooted in discrimination that exacerbate poverty and social exclusion;
- (f) the allocation of **adequate and sustained budgetary resources** for anti-poverty measures through the MFF and national budgetary mechanisms.

Fair working conditions and a more equitable distribution of income and wealth

Parliament called on the Commission and Member States to strengthen their active labour market policies, particularly for those furthest from employment, and to promote policies aimed at protecting and promoting workers' rights, quality jobs, and fair wages, including equal pay for equal work for women and men. To end in-work poverty, Members called for improved access to childcare services and appropriate vocational support.

Parliament formulated the following recommendations:

- strengthen **public employment services**, training pathways and job search assistance systems for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups, including the long-term unemployed and the low-skilled;
- support **women's entrepreneurship** and self-employment opportunities, particularly in rural and island areas;
- ensure that education is accessible to children **with disabilities**;

- significantly increase public investment in policies guaranteeing social rights, ensuring **universal access to quality public services** as well as goods and services of general economic and social interest, such as decent housing, food, water, sanitation, energy, transport, communications and cultural and leisure activities;
- promote a **housing** policy that guarantees universal access to decent and affordable housing and that includes specific measures to combat homelessness;
- accelerate efforts to close the gender gap in employment and **pensions**;
- guarantee **universal access to affordable and quality public health care** for all and guarantee all women the right to sexual and reproductive health care;
- tackle **youth poverty** and socioeconomic inequalities by strengthening the Youth Guarantee as a key instrument to promote the inclusion of young people in the labour market.

A strategy with child poverty at its core

Parliament called for greater support to guarantee access to effective and free healthcare, education, early childhood education and care, effective access to adequate and decent housing, and healthy nutrition for all children in need. To this end, Members called for the creation of a substantial dedicated budget of at least **EUR 20 billion** for the European Child Guarantee. Members should allocate at least 5 % of ESF+ funds to specific projects and structural investments combating child poverty, with at least 10 % earmarked for the Member States with child poverty and social exclusion levels exceeding the EU average.