

How can the E.U. help the poor ?

In October 2010, 7.8% of E.U. citizens were unemployed, this percentage decreased to 4.1% in September 2018.

¹Unemployment in the E.U. is stabilizing (not increasing). Close to one in four European citizens experience income poverty or severe material deprivation. In 2015, a third of the population was in risk of poverty in the E.U countries: Bulgaria (41.3%), Romania (37.4%) and Greece (35.7%)². But how can higher powers help? A student has asked two Maltese M.E.P.s for their opinion about the fact that the European Parliament is in Brussels and Strasbourg with offices in Luxembourg and about the money being spent to transport M.E.P.s and their documents.

Dr Alfred Sant said that they 'travel out of Brussels, to Strasbourg or Luxembourg for only one week per month.' He also said that 'since the E.U. has grown larger, splitting of the Parliament's work no longer makes sense, however, it is written into the Treaties- in order for this to change, all E.U countries must accept and France does not.' Dr Sant also said that the 'benefits of M.E.Ps meeting at the same building would be

¹ Source: Eurostat, Bureau of Labor Statistics

² Source: Euronews.com

saving on operational expenditures, quicker organization of work and less time would be wasted.'

Dr Francis Zammit Dimech agrees that the 'E.P. should function from one place' and 'does not think that meeting in different countries makes sense.' He discussed that 'M.E.Ps meeting in the same place would save on having to commute from one city to another, which is rather exasperating, having one site would mean less emissions, more sustainability and therefore a better environment.'

If all the E.U member-states agree on meeting in one site much more money would be saved, this money could be used to help the homeless sitting next to the E.P. premises. Moreover, it would help to prevent air pollution which is a problem that is increasing. This is surely not the only way out for poverty, and poverty is not the only issue that can benefit from this.