



European Parliament

Răzvan Popa, Member of the European Parliament

Brussels, 15 May 2018

Dear Federal Chancellor, Sebastian Kurz

I am sending you this letter as I have taken notice over the past months about the draft law put forward by your Government concerning child benefits for EU citizens residing in Austria.

As I come from Romania, I can inform you that Romanian families will suffer the most, along side other East European families that will have considerable losses in living expenses whilst West European families will even have higher benefits.

This is highly unfair as all EU citizens residing in Austria pay the same taxes and draws a lot of discriminatory questions that will further widen the gap between Eastern and Western European citizens by enforcing the idea of a two speed Europe. Child benefit is provided under a universal scheme for all EU citizens residing in Austria, and is financed by employers' contributions and taxes. Romanian citizens contribute as any other citizen to Austria's economy and deserve the same treatment, thus they should not be discriminate more than they already are.

I consider that all EU citizens residing in another Member States should benefit the same social security rights, in order for the European project to continue its ascension.

As I hope that you will realize the sensitivity of this subject, I believe that you have the power to withdraw this draft law and stop such discriminatory practices especially now when the Austrian European Council Presidency is around the corner, thus we should further promote EU principles instead of rejecting them.

Respectfully yours,

Sebastian Kurz  
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