(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010096/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acidificação dos oceanos

O CO_2 é um dos principais gases geradores do efeito de estufa, e é também o principal responsável pela acidificação da água dos oceanos, que absorvem cerca de um quarto das emissões totais.

De acordo com um estudo publicado na revista *Nature Climate Change*, a acidificação dos oceanos, devido à dissolução de dióxido de carbono (CO_2) na água, poderá acentuar o aquecimento global ao diminuir a emissão de gases de origem marinha.

Este estudo sublinha que os efeitos da acidificação não são atualmente tidos em conta nas projeções sobre a evolução das alterações climáticas devido ao aquecimento da atmosfera.

1. Tem a Comissão conhecimento deste estudo? Como avalia as referidas conclusões?

2. Considera a Comissão pertinente a inclusão deste mecanismo em futuras projeções sobre o aquecimento global?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(25 de outubro de 2013)

A Comissão está a par do estudo referido pelo Senhor Deputado, que se baseia, nomeadamente, nas conclusões de projetos financiados pela UE através do seu sétimo programa-quadro de investigação, desenvolvimento tecnológico e demonstração (7.° PQ, 2007-2013), em especial o projeto EPOCA. ([1]) A interação entre a acidificação dos oceanos e o aquecimento global está a ser estudada no quadro de diversos projetos financiados pela UE.

Todos os resultados pertinentes e confirmados serão depois tidos em conta nas futuras projeções sobre o aquecimento global.

([1]) Projeto EPOCA — European Project on OCean Acidification (www.epoca-project.eu).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010096/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Acidification of the oceans

CO_2 is one of the main greenhouse gases and is also the principal cause of the acidification of sea water, which absorbs around a quarter of total emissions.

According to a study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, ocean acidification caused by carbon dioxide (CO_2) dissolving in the water could amplify global warming by reducing the emission of marine gases.

This study stresses that the effects of acidification are not currently taken into account in projections of climate change caused by the warming of the atmosphere.

1. Is the Commission aware of this study? What is its assessment of the above conclusions?

2. Does the Commission consider it relevant to include this mechanism in future global warming projections?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

The Commission is aware of the study mentioned by the Honourable Member, which builds *inter alia* on findings from projects funded by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013), particularly the EPOCA project. [1] The interaction between ocean acidification and global warming is currently under investigation in different EU funded projects.

All relevant and confirmed results will then be considered for future global warming projections.

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(1) EPOCA European Project on OCean Acidification (www.epoca-project.eu).

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010097/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Biossensor portátil para detetar certos tipos de cancro

A unidade de investigação BioMark — Sensor Research do Instituto Superior de Engenharia do Porto (ISEP) está a desenvolver um projeto que pode revolucionar o diagnóstico precoce de alguns tipos de cancro e que já recebeu financiamento do European Research Council.

A investigadora portuguesa, que apresentou recentemente a equipa que irá trabalhar neste projeto, explicou que «o 3'Ps representa um novo conceito de diagnóstico que vai permitir a um médico, em qualquer consultório, fazer uma análise rápida, indolor e baratinha de forma a detetar os marcadores de certos tipos de cancros», e acrescentou ainda que «tem que ser um dispositivo barato para poder ser utilizado em grande escala e não apenas em hospitais ou laboratórios de análises específicos».

1. Tem a Comissão acompanhado a evolução deste projeto?

2. Como avalia a Comissão as potencialidades deste dispositivo?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(24 de outubro de 2013)

A Comissão tem conhecimento do projeto «3P», financiado pelo Conselho Europeu de Investigação, que introduz um novo conceito para o desenvolvimento de um dispositivo sensor inovador destinado à deteção, diagnóstico e monitorização no consultório médico de determinados padrões de biomarcadores do cancro.

Dado que este projeto quinquenal teve início apenas em 1 de fevereiro de 2013, muito trabalho de investigação e desenvolvimento tem ainda de ser feito antes que possam ser integrados na plataforma de deteção todos os elementos necessários. O CEI irá acompanhar os progressos do projeto numa base regular e avaliará o potencial dos resultados obtidos.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010097/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Portable biosensor for detecting certain types of cancer

The BioMark-Sensor Research unit at the Porto Institute of Engineering (ISEP) is developing a project that could revolutionise the early diagnosis of certain cancers, and has already received funding from the European Research Council.

The Portuguese research group, which recently presented the team that will be working on the project, explained that the '3Ps represents a new diagnostic concept that will enable doctors, in any clinic, to carry out a quick, painless and low-cost analysis to detect the markers of certain types of cancer', and added that 'the device must be cheap so it can be used on a large scale and not only in specific hospitals or laboratories'.

1. Is the Commission monitoring the development of this project?

2. What is its assessment of the potential of this device?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(24 October 2013)

The Commission is well aware of the '3Ps' European Research Council-funded project, which presents a new concept for the development of a novel sensing device for the detection, diagnosis and monitoring of cancer biomarker patterns in point-of-care.

Since this 5-year project started as recently as 1 February 2013, much research and development work still needs to be done before all needed elements can be integrated into the sensing platform. ERC will monitor the progress of the project on a regular basis and will assess the potential of the obtained results.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010098/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Cosméticos e produtos de limpeza podem ser responsáveis por alergias na pele

O conservante, apesar de ser seguro e não tóxico, é agora utilizado em concentrações mais fortes tanto em cosméticos — champôs, hidratantes, gel de banho, maquilhagem, toalhitas para bebé — como em produtos de limpeza.

Tem sido afirmado por dermatologistas que o aumento da concentração de MI (conservante químico metilisotiazolinona) faz aumentar e acentua os casos de alergias.

Nos últimos anos, o MI foi misturado com outros conservantes, uma vez que a sua concentração era relativamente baixa. Mas, como estes outros produtos químicos foram eliminados devido às suas próprias tendências para causar alergias de pele, o MI tornou-se um produto químico isolado.

1. Tem a Comissão conhecimento da situação acima enunciada?

2. Que medidas tenciona a Comissão Europeia implementar, no sentido de impedir o aumento da concentração de MI nos cosméticos e produtos de limpeza, responsável pelo crescente número de casos de alergias na pele?

Resposta dada por Neven Mimica em nome da Comissão
(28 de outubro de 2013)

A Comissão está ciente do potencial de sensibilização cutâneo da metilisotiazolinona, que é autorizada como conservante em produtos cosméticos até à concentração máxima de 0,01 %. Com base na documentação disponível que suscita preocupações sobre o potencial de sensibilização a Comissão solicitou recentemente ao Comité Científico da Segurança dos Consumidores a reavaliação desta substância.

A proibição de substâncias nocivas é possível ao abrigo do Regulamento (CE) n.° 1223/2009 relativo a produtos cosméticos [1], na condição de o Comité Científico da Segurança dos Consumidores ter realizado uma avaliação dos riscos da substância e tê-la considerado pouco segura para a saúde humana. Consoante o resultado da reavaliação do comité, a Comissão tomará todas as medidas necessárias, o que poderá incluir o estabelecimento de limites de exposição ou obrigações adicionais de rotulagem.

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[1] JO L 342 de 22.12.2009; P. 59.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010098/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Cosmetics and cleaning products may be responsible for skin allergies

The preservative Methylisothiazolinone (MIT) is stable and non-toxic; however, stronger concentrations are now being used in cosmetics — shampoos, moisturisers, shower gels, make-up, baby wipes — and also cleaning products.

Dermatologists have stated that higher concentrations of MIT are increasing and aggravating allergies.

Previously, MIT was mixed with other preservatives, so its concentration was relatively low. However, as these other chemicals have been phased out due to their own tendencies to cause skin allergies, MIT has become an isolated chemical.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?

2. What measures will it take to prevent the increase of MIT concentrations in cosmetics and cleaning products, and which are responsible for a growing number of skin allergies?

Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission
(28 October 2013)

The Commission is aware of the sensitizing potential of methylisothiazolinone, which is authorised as a preservative in cosmetic products at a maximum concentration of 0.01%. On the basis of literature raising concern on the sensitization potential, the Commission recently requested the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety to reassess this substance.

The ban of harmful substances is possible under Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetic products ([1]) under the condition that the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety has carried out a risk assessment of the substance and found it unsafe for human health. Depending on the outcome of the reassessment by the Committee, the Commission will take all necessary measures, which could include setting exposure limits or additional labelling obligations..

([1]) OJ L 342, 22.12.2009; p.59.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010099/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Espionagem norte-americana

Foi noticiado pelo jornal *The Guardian* que a Agência Nacional de Segurança dos Estados Unidos da América (NSA) pagou milhões de dólares a grandes empresas da internet, nomeadamente Google, Microsoft, Facebook e Yahoo, para compensar os custos associados aos pedidos de vigilância informática.

A confirmar-se, isto prova a vinculação entre estas empresas da internet e os programas de espionagem norte-americanos.

Após as notícias sobre a espionagem dos EUA à Presidente Dilma, o Governo brasileiro anuncia a criação de um correio eletrónico mais seguro e concorrente do Gmail e Hotmail.

Sabendo que, de acordo com documentos confidenciais recolhidos pelo analista informático Edward Snowden e divulgados recentemente pelo sítio Web da revista alemã *Der Spiegel*, a União Europeia é um dos principais alvos dos programas de espionagem dos Estados Unidos, que posição assume a Comissão?

Resposta dada por Viviane Reding em nome da Comissão
(4 de novembro de 2013)

A Comissão remete o Senhor Deputado para a resposta dada às perguntas escritas E-006861/2013 e E-007931/2013.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010099/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Espionage by the United States

The Guardian newspaper has reported that the United States National Security Agency (NSA) paid millions of dollars to large Internet companies, specifically Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Yahoo, to meet the costs associated with requests for computer surveillance.

If confirmed, this proves the connection between these Internet companies and the US espionage programmes.

Following the news that the US spied on President Dilma Rousseff, the Brazilian Government has announced the creation of a more secure email system to compete with Gmail and Hotmail.

What is the Commission's position on this, given that the classified documents gathered by the data analyst Edward Snowden, as recently disclosed by the website of the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, reveal that the European Union is one of the principal targets of the US espionage programmes?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(4 November 2013)

The Commision would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to written questions E-006861/2013 and E-007931/2013.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010100/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Exploração infantil nas minas de ouro da Tanzânia

Milhares de crianças trabalham em minas de ouro na Tanzânia, perfurando jazidas, trabalhando 24 horas por dia, transportando pesadas cargas de ouro, sendo expostas ao mercúrio, que causa graves prejuízos à saúde.

1. Tem a Comissão conhecimento desta situação?

2. Sabendo que a proibição da exploração infantil está consagrada na Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos e que o trabalho nas minas é apontado como um dos mais perigosos pelos acordos internacionais, tendo estes sido assinados pela Tanzânia, que posição e medidas assume a Comissão face à situação descrita?

Resposta dada por Andris Piebalgs em nome da Comissão
(30 de outubro de 2013)

A UE está firmemente empenhada na proteção dos direitos da criança, o que inclui a luta contra o trabalho infantil. Neste contexto, a UE participou de forma ativa na III Conferência Mundial sobre o trabalho infantil, realizada de 8 a 10 de outubro, em Brasília. A UE condena veementemente a exposição das crianças a trabalhos perigosos e promove o estabelecimento de listas atualizadas de trabalho de alto risco em conformidade com a Convenção n.° 182 da OIT.

A Comissão está plenamente consciente do que se passa na Tanzânia, onde o não respeito dos direitos da criança (designadamente o trabalho infantil) se conta entre as lacunas em matéria de direitos humanos, constituindo um dos principais domínios prioritários de ação da UE. No seu relatório para o Exame Periódico Universal da ONU, o Governo da Tanzânia reiterou também que os direitos da criança, em especial a luta contra o trabalho infantil, constituem uma prioridade para o país.

A Comissão está a financiar dois projetos contra o trabalho infantil na Tanzânia. Um deles é aplicado por «Plan International» e apoia a erradicação do trabalho infantil no distrito de Geita, enquanto o outro é aplicado por «Save the Children», com o objetivo de, mediante o reforço das capacidades e das instituições, proteger e afastar as crianças das piores formas de trabalho infantil em 50 comunidades de 9 distritos de Zanzibar. A Comissão está em vias de celebrar três novos contratos, para projetos a executar pela Unicef, pela OIM e por «Save the Children», juntamente com organizações parceiras nacionais, que ajudarão o governo nacional, as autoridades locais, as comunidades, as escolas, os pais e as crianças a pôr em prática ações eficazes destinadas a inserir as crianças vítimas de tráfico de seres humanos, violência, conflitos armados e trabalho infantil em sistemas de ensino ou formação profissional a tempo inteiro e a reintegrá-las na sociedade.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010100/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Child exploitation in Tanzanian gold mines

There are thousands of children working 24 hours a day in Tanzanian gold mines, drilling deposits, transporting heavy loads of gold, and being exposed to mercury, which seriously damages health.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?

2. Given that child exploitation is prohibited under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that working in mines is named as one of the world's most dangerous occupations in international agreements, which Tanzania has signed, what stance and what measures is the Commission adopting to address this situation?

Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission
(30 October 2013)

The EU is fully committed to the protection of children's rights, which includes the fight against child labour. In this context, the EU was actively involved in the III Global Conference on Child Labour held on 8-10 October in Brasilia. The EU strongly condemns the exposure of children to hazardous work and promotes the establishment of up-to-date hazardous work lists in line with ILO Convention 182.

The Commission is fully aware of the phenomenon in Tanzania. Children's rights, including child labour, are amongst the human rights weaknesses in the country and represent key priority areas for EU action. In its report for the UN Universal Periodic Review, the Tanzanian Government has also reiterated that children's rights, particularly fighting against child labour, is a priority for the country.

The Commission is funding two projects against child labour in Tanzania. One is implemented by Plan International and supports the eradication of child labour in Geita district. The other is implemented by Save the Children, with the objective of protecting and withdrawing children from the worst forms of child labour in 50 communities of 9 districts in Zanzibar, through capacity and institution strengthening. The Commission is in the process of contracting three new projects, to be implemented by Unicef, IOM and Save the Children along with national partner organisations, which will help the National Government, Local Authorities, communities, schools, parents and children to implement effective actions to bring child victims of trafficking, violence, armed conflict and child labour into full-time education or vocational training and re-integrate them into society.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010101/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Mutações genéticas que geram cancro

Todos os cancros são gerados por mutações no ADN (código genético) das células do organismo.

Um estudo desenvolvido por equipas de investigação de 14 países permitiu analisar mais de sete mil genomas tumorais e descobrir mais de 20 processos diferentes de mutação genética, na origem dos 30 tipos de cancro mais comuns.

O Consórcio Internacional do Genoma do Cancro identificou as mutações genéticas que geram os 30 cancros mais comuns.

Esta investigação permitiu ainda identificar os processos biológicos subjacentes ao desenvolvimento da maioria das mutações genéticas e revelou que, enquanto alguns tumores são causados apenas por dois padrões mutacionais, outros podem ser por seis, o que indica uma maior complexidade.

1. Tem a Comissão conhecimento desta investigação?

2. Que avaliação faz a Comissão dos resultados apresentados no que diz respeito à prevenção e ao tratamento destas patologias?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(25 de outubro de 2013)

1. A Comissão tem conhecimento do estudo referido pelo Senhor Deputado ([1]), realizado pelo Consórcio Internacional do Genoma do Cancro (ICGC) ([2]).

2. A Comissão é um dos membros fundadores do ICGC. O estudo mencionado pelo Senhor Deputado contou com numerosas fontes de financiamento, incluindo o projeto BASIS ([3]), que constitui um dos projetos do ICGC apoiados através do sétimo programa-quadro de atividades de investigação, desenvolvimento tecnológico e demonstração (7.° PQ, 2007-2013). O projeto BASIS foi realizado em colaboração com outro projeto do 7.° PQ, o Heptromic ([4]).

Os resultados apresentados fornecem uma síntese dos processos de mutação que estão na origem do desenvolvimento dos tumores. Foram analisados mais de 7000 cancros e descritas mais de 20 diferentes assinaturas mutacionais. Certas assinaturas estão presentes em muitos tipos de cancro e outras são exclusivas de uma determinada classe de cancro, algumas estão associadas à exposição a determinados mutagénicos e algumas à idade, mas, em muitos casos, as suas origens são desconhecidas.

A elucidação dos diferentes processos de mutação ajudará a compreender por que razão e de que modo os cancros se desenvolvem e abrirá caminho a novas estratégias terapêuticas e preventivas.

O programa Horizonte 2020, o próximo programa de financiamento da UE para a investigação e a inovação (2014-2020) ([5]), dará oportunidade a que se estude a etiologia da doença, incluindo a genética do cancro, através do desafio societal «Saúde, alterações demográficas e bem-estar».

([1]) Alexandrov LB et al. (2013) Nature doi:10.1038/nature12477.
([2]) http://www.icgc.org/
([3]) http://www.basisproject.eu/, Breast Cancer Somatic Genetics Study.
([4]) http://www.heptromic.eu/, Genomic predictors and oncogenic drivers in hepatocellular carcinoma.
([5]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010101/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Cancer-causing genetic mutations

All cancers are caused by mutations to the DNA (genetic code) contained in the cells of the body.

A study conducted by research teams from 14 countries analysed more than 7 000 tumour genomes and discovered that 30 of the most common types of cancer originate from more than 20 different genetic mutation processes.

The International Cancer Genome Consortium identified the genetic mutations that cause the 30 most common types of cancer.

This research also enabled the biological processes underlying the development of the majority of genetic mutations to be identified and revealed that, while some tumours are caused by only two mutation patterns, others could be caused by six, indicating a greater complexity.

1. Is the Commission aware of this research?

2. What is its assessment of the results with regard to the prevention and treatment of these diseases?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

1. The Commission is aware of the research referred to by the Honourable Member, ([1]) conducted by the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC) ([2]).

2. The Commission is one of the Funding Members of ICGC. The research mentioned by the Honourable Member was supported by numerous funding sources, including the BASIS project ([3]), which is one of the ICGC projects supported via the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013). The BASIS project was conducted in collaboration with another FP7 project, HEPTROMIC ([4]).

The results presented provide a compendium of mutational processes that drive tumour development. Over 7 000 cancers were analysed and over 20 distinct mutational signatures were described. Certain signatures are present in many cancer types and others are unique for a specific cancer class, some are associated with exposures to specific mutagens, and some with age, but in many cases, their origins are unknown.

Elucidating different mutational processes will help to understand why and how cancers develop and pave the way to new therapeutic and preventive strategies.

Horizon 2020, the next EU funding Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) ([5]) will offer opportunities to address research on disease aetiology, including cancer genetics, through the 'Health, demographic change and well-being' societal challenge.

([1]) Alexandrov LB et al. (2013) Nature doi:10.1038/nature12477
([2]) http://www.icgc.org/
([3]) http://www.basisproject.eu/, Breast Cancer Somatic Genetics Study
([4]) http://www.heptromic.eu/, Genomic predictors and oncogenic drivers in hepatocellular carcinoma
([5]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010102/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Melanoma

Um estudo realizado por um grupo de cientistas do Instituto Valenciano de Investigação Sanitária Incliva, em colaboração com a universidade australiana de Queensland e publicado recentemente na revista *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, confirmou que o número de «nevos melanocítivos» (vulgarmente designados como sinais) é um fator de risco para o desenvolvimento do melanoma.

Os cientistas determinaram que o gene MITF, produtor de melanina, e o número de sinais na pele são fatores de risco de melanoma.

Em Portugal, segundo o presidente da Sociedade Portuguesa de Dermatologia, os casos são diagnosticados cada vez mais precocemente e com melhor prognóstico, mas o número de casos aumenta anualmente sete a oito por cento, em Portugal e na maioria dos países europeus.

1. Tem a Comissão conhecimento desta investigação?

2. Como avalia a Comissão as conclusões apresentadas?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(25 de outubro de 2013)

1. A Comissão tem conhecimento do estudo sobre «nevos melanocíticos» (vulgarmente designados como sinais) ([1]) ([2]) mencionado pelo Senhor Deputado, realizado pelo Instituto Valenciano de Investigação Sanitária e por diversos departamentos de investigação da Universidade de Queensland, em Brisbane, Austrália.

2. Os resultados mostram que uma alteração genética num gene responsável pela ativação da produção de melanina e o número de sinais são fatores de risco para o desenvolvimento do melanoma. O estudo foi realizado num grupo relativamente pequeno de doentes. É preciso realizar mais investigação translacional, incluindo ensaios clínicos rigorosamente concebidos, para avaliar plenamente a potencial pertinência destes resultados.

Horizonte 2020, o próximo programa de financiamento da UE sobre Investigação e Inovação (2014-2020) ([3]), proporcionará oportunidades para abordar a investigação sobre cancro da pele, nomeadamente no âmbito do desafio societal «Saúde, alterações demográficas e bem-estar».

([1]) http://www.incliva.es/spip.php?article481&lang=
([2]) Sturm R et al (2013) Journal of Investigative Dermatology; doi:10.1038/jid.2013.272.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010102/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Melanoma

A study conducted by a group of scientists at the Health Research Institute in Valencia (INCLIVA), in collaboration with Queensland University in Australia, and published recently in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, confirmed that the number of 'melanocytic naevi' (commonly known as moles) is a risk factor for the development of melanoma.

The scientists found that the MITF gene, which produces melanin, and the number of moles on the skin are risk factors for melanoma.

According to the President of the Portuguese Dermatology Society, cases are being diagnosed increasingly early in Portugal and the prognosis is better. However, the number of cases is growing by seven to eight per cent every year in Portugal and in most other European countries.

1. Is the Commission aware of this research?

2. What is the Commission's assessment of its conclusions?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

1. The Commission is aware of the study on skin 'melanocytic naevi' (commonly known as moles) ([1])([2]) referred to by the Honourable Member, conducted by the Health Research Institute in Valencia and several research departments at Queensland University in Brisbane, Australia.

2. The results show that a genetic alteration in a gene responsible for the activation of melanin production and the number of skin moles are risk factors for the development of melanoma. The study was conducted in a relatively small group of patients. Further translational research, including rigorously designed clinical trials, is warranted to fully assess the potential relevance of these results.

Horizon 2020, the next EU funding Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) ([3],) will provide opportunities to address research on skin cancer, *inter alia* through the 'Health, demographic change and well-being' societal challenge.

([1]) http://www.incliva.es/spip.php?article481&lang=
([2]) Sturm R et al (2013) Journal of Investigative Dermatology; doi:10.1038/jid.2013.272.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010103/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Hepatite D e cancro do fígado

Para se multiplicar e infetar o fígado dos seres humanos, o vírus da hepatite D depende da existência do vírus da hepatite B. O vírus da hepatite delta (VHD) tem um período de incubação entre 15 e 45 dias e transmite-se através do sangue e transfusões sanguíneas, durante o parto e através da partilha de seringas infetadas ou objetos de higiene pessoal, como lâminas de barbear e escovas de dentes.

De acordo com uma informação veiculada pelo Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical (IHMT), uma investigação liderada por um cientista português revelou uma associação entre a infeção crónica com o VHD e o cancro do fígado.

Os investigadores da Unidade de Ensino e Investigação de Microbiologia Médica do IHMT identificaram «um mecanismo envolvido na replicação do VHD que potencia o desenvolvimento de células cancerígenas».

A investigação mostrou também que «algumas proteínas celulares que participam no suicídio das células cancerígenas são sintetizadas em menor escala na presença do VHD, o que contribui para reduzir as defesas do organismo e potenciar o desenvolvimento de cancro».

1. Tem a Comissão conhecimento desta investigação?

2. Que avaliação faz a Comissão dos resultados apresentados?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(24 de outubro de 2013)

1. A Comissão tem conhecimento do estudo ([1])([2]), referido pelo Senhor Deputado, que descreve as alterações no proteoma de células decorrentes da expressão do antigénio do vírus da hepatite D (VHD) e da replicação do genoma do VHD.

2. Os resultados apresentados baseiam-se em estudos preliminares realizados em linhas celulares humanas. Os investigadores propõem um possível mecanismo responsável pela maior incidência de carcinoma hepatocelular em doentes infetados com VHD, nomeadamente a desregulamentação do ponto de controlo G2/M do ciclo celular. São necessários estudos mais aprofundados para confirmar estes resultados e identificar potenciais alvos terapêuticos na infeção pelo vírus da hepatite ou no cancro do fígado.

O Programa-Quadro Horizonte 2020, ou seja, o próximo programa de financiamento da investigação e inovação da UE (2014-2020) ([3]), proporcionará oportunidades para abordar a investigação sobre o cancro, incluindo doenças malignas relacionadas com infeções, no âmbito do Desafio Societal «Saúde, Alterações Demográficas e Bem-Estar».

([1]) http://www.ihmt.unl.pt/?lang=pt&page=actualidade&subpage=noticias&m2=256
([2]) Mendes M et al (2013), Journal of Proteomics; DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jprot.2013.06.002.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010103/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Hepatitis D and liver cancer

In order to multiply and infect human livers, the hepatitis D virus depends on the existence of the hepatitis B virus. The hepatitis delta virus (HDV) has an incubation period of between 15 and 45 days and is transmitted via blood and blood transfusions, during labour, and through sharing contaminated needles or personal hygiene objects such as razors and toothbrushes.

According to information from the Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (IHMT), a study led by a Portuguese scientist has found a link between chronic HDV infection and liver cancer.

Researchers from the Medical Microbiology Teaching and Research Unit at the IHMT have identified a 'mechanism involved in the replication of HDV which encourages the development of cancer cells'.

The investigation also showed that 'several cellular proteins that stimulate cancer cell "suicide" are synthesised on a smaller scale when HDV is present, thereby reducing the body's defences and enhancing cancer development'.

1. Is the Commission aware of this study?

2. What is its assessment of the findings presented?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(24 October 2013)

1. The Commission is aware of the research referred to by the Honourable Member ([1])([2]), which describes changes in the cell proteome arising as a result of the expression of the hepatitis delta virus (HDV) antigen and HDV genome replication.

2. The results presented are based on preliminary studies conducted on human cell lines. The researchers propose a possible mechanism responsible for the increased incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients infected with HDV, namely deregulation of the cell cycle G2/M checkpoint. Further research is required to confirm these findings and to identify potential therapeutic targets in hepatitis D infection or liver cancer.

Horizon 2020, i.e. the next EU funding Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) ([3]) will offer opportunities to address research on cancer, including infection related malignancies, through the 'Health, demographic change and well-being' societal challenge.

([1]) http://www.ihmt.unl.pt/?lang=pt&page=actualidade&subpage=noticias&m2=256
([2]) Mendes M et al (2013) Journal of Proteomics; doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jprot.2013.06.002
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010104/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Tratamento da hepatite C

Os tratamentos atuais contra a hepatite C podem durar um ano e implicam injeções semanais de interferon alfa combinado com ribavirina e outro antiviral. Entre os efeitos secundários, que podem ser graves, incluem-se a depressão, os sintomas de gripe e a anemia.

Um ensaio clínico de fase II, descrito num artigo divulgado na terça-feira no *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), estudou a eficácia e segurança de um medicamento experimental, tomado com um antiviral.

De acordo com os investigadores, a combinação do antiviral, ribavirina, e do medicamento experimental, sofosbuvir, curou 70 % dos pacientes com hepatite C em ensaios clínicos iniciais, prometendo uma solução mais simples para a doença hepática crónica.

O ensaio contou com a participação de 60 voluntários infetados com o genótipo 1 do vírus da hepatite C, e incluiu participantes com um fígado muito deteriorado e outros com lesões menos avançadas nesse órgão. Vinte e quatro semanas após o final do tratamento, o vírus não foi detetado em 70 % dos participantes, o que é considerado uma cura, porque este agente patogénico não se integra no ADN humano.

1. Tem a Comissão conhecimento desta investigação?

2. Como avalia a Comissão os resultados obtidos nos ensaios clínicos?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(28 de outubro de 2013)

A Comissão está a acompanhar atentamente os progressos científicos no domínio da hepatite C (HCV). A Comissão tem também conhecimento do artigo a que se refere o Senhor Deputado, publicado no Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). O artigo em questão apresenta os resultados do ensaio (fase II) que estuda a eficácia e segurança de um novo medicamento experimental a utilizar em combinação com a ribavirina, medicamento antirretroviral já aprovado.

A Comissão considera que esta descoberta, tal como outros desenvolvimentos científicos publicados em revistas científicas de grande impacto e objeto de análise pelos pares, poderá vir a representar uma nova opção de regime terapêutico dual para a cura de doentes com HCV que respondem de forma desfavorável aos tratamentos. Importa assinalar que, a corroborar estes resultados, estão em curso ensaios adicionais com vista a melhor determinar se regimes terapêuticos sem interferão ou ribavirina podem ajudar as pessoas com doença crónica devido a infeção por HCV.

A Comissão está a participar no financiamento da investigação sobre a hepatite no âmbito dos seus programas-quadro de investigação. Ao abrigo do Sétimo Programa-Quadro de Investigação, Desenvolvimento Tecnológico e Atividades de Demonstração (7.° PQ, 2007-2013), foram financiados 12 projetos sobre HCV com uma contribuição da UE de mais de 35 milhões de euros. No âmbito do Programa-Quadro Horizonte 2020, o próximo programa de financiamento da UE para a Investigação e a Inovação (2014-2020), a Comissão continuará a apoiar a investigação no domínio da saúde e a ter em conta, no estabelecimento das suas prioridades, todos os grandes desenvolvimentos científicos de relevo.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010104/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Hepatitis C treatment

Current treatments for hepatitis C can last a year and involve weekly injections of interferon alpha combined with ribavirin and another antiviral. The side effects, which can be severe, include depression, flu-like symptoms and anaemia.

A phase II clinical trial, described in an article published on Tuesday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), studied the efficacy and safety of a new experimental drug, sofosbuvir, taken together with an antiviral.

Researchers found that the combination of the antiviral, ribavirin, and sofosbuvir, cured 70% of patients with hepatitis C in initial clinical trials, promising a simpler solution for the liver disease.

The trial involved 60 volunteers with genotype 1 of the hepatitis C virus, and included participants with severe liver deterioration and others with less advanced liver damage. Twenty-four weeks after the end of treatment, the virus was not detected in 70% of participants. This is considered a cure, as the pathogen is not integrated in human DNA.

1. Is the Commission aware of this study?

2. What is its assessment of the results of these clinical trials?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(28 October 2013)

The Commission is following closely the scientific developments with respect to hepatitis C (HCV). The Commission is also aware of the article the Honourable Member is referring to, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). The article presents the results of the phase II trial studying the efficacy and safety of a new experimental drug to be used in combination with the licenced antiretroviral drug ribavirin.

The Commission considers that this finding, like other scientific developments published in high impact peer-reviewed scientific journals, shows promise for a novel dual regiment option to cure HCV positive patients with unfavourable treatment characteristics. Importantly, to corroborate these results, additional trials are underway to further determine if regimens without interferon or ribavirin can help people with chronic HCV infection.

The Commission is involved in funding research on hepatitis through its Research Framework Programmes. Through the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities FP7 (2007-2013), 12 projects on HCV have been funded involving a EU contribution of over EUR 35 million. In Horizon 2020, the next EU funding Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), the Commission will continue to support health research and in setting its priorities will take into account all relevant major scientific developments.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-010148/13
an die Kommission
Burkhard Balz (PPE)
(11. September 2013)

Betrifft: Umstrukturierung der Landesbank Baden-Württemberg

In ihrem Beschluss vom 15.12.2009 über die Staatliche Beihilfe Nr. C 17/2009 Deutschlands zur Umstrukturierung der Landesbank Baden-Württemberg hat die Kommission die staatliche Beihilfe unter Berücksichtigung des Umstrukturierungsplans genehmigt. Deutschland hat gegenüber der Kommission zugesagt, dass die LBBW den Umstrukturierungsplan umsetzen wird. Teil der Zusagen war der Verkauf der LBBW Immobilien GmbH.

Daher wird die Kommission um Beantwortung folgender Fragen ersucht:

1. Welche Auflagen hat die Kommission für den Verkauf LBBW-Wohnungen gemacht?

2. War beim Verkauf der LBBW-Wohnungen ausschließlich das höchste Gebot zu berücksichtigen?

3. Kann die Kommission Auskunft darüber geben, inwieweit es im Ermessen der Eigentümer der LBBW lag, die konkrete Ausgestaltung der Veräußerung des Wohnungsbestands der LBBW Immobilien GmbH zu bestimmen?

4. Wurde die Kommission hinsichtlich der Erteilung eines konkreten Zuschlags für einzelne Anbieter seitens der Eigentümer der LBBW konsultiert bzw. hat sie hier Vorgaben gemacht?

5. Hat die Kommission im Zuge des Verkaufs des Wohnungsbestandes die Einpreisung von Vorgaben zum Schutz der Mieter (Sozialcharta) ausgeschlossen?

Antwort von Herrn Almunia im Namen der Kommission
(7. Oktober 2013)

Die Kommission hat in Bezug auf den Verkauf der LBBW-Wohnungen keine Bedingungen gestellt, da die Zusagen von Deutschland übermittelt wurden. Der Preis war nicht das einzige Kriterium. Den Zusagen zufolge sollten die LBBW-Wohnungen auf „bestmögliche Art" verkauft werden. Deshalb konnten neben dem Preis auch andere Kriterien berücksichtigt werden. Wenn die Angebote aus wirtschaftlicher und juristischer Sicht weitgehend identisch sind, wäre der Preis jedoch das ausschlaggebende Kriterium.

Das Verkaufsverfahren lag in der Verantwortung der LBBW und Deutschlands. Die Kommission wurde über die Gesamtentwicklung des Verkaufsprozesses informiert, hatte jedoch keine Bedingungen gestellt. Da die Zusagen aus Deutschland stammten, war die Kommission nicht befugt, Möglichkeiten auszuschließen; dies gilt auch für Vorgaben zum Schutz der Mieter.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010148/13
to the Commission
Burkhard Balz (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Restructuring of the Landesbank Baden-Württemberg

In its decision of 15 December 2009 concerning Germany's state aid No C 17/2009 for the restructuring of Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW), the Commission approved the state aid, taking into account the restructuring plan. Germany gave the Commission an undertaking that LBBW would implement the restructuring plan. One element in that undertaking was that LBBW Immobilien GmbH would be sold.

1. What conditions did the Commission attach to the sale of LBBW-Wohnungen?

2. When LBBW-Wohnungen was sold, was there a requirement that it could only be sold to the highest bidder?

3. Can the Commission indicate to what extent it was at the discretion of the owners of LBBW to decide on the specific arrangements for selling the housing stock of LBBW Immobilien GmbH?

4. Did the owners of LBBW consult the Commission about the award of a specific contract to individual tenderers, or did the Commission impose conditions in this regard?

5. In connection with the sale of the housing stock, did the Commission rule out the possibility of including conditions to protect tenants (a social charter) as part of the package covered by the price?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(7 October 2013)

The Commission did not impose conditions as regards the sale of the LBBW-Wohnungen, given that the commitments were submitted by Germany. Price was not the only criterion. The commitments from Germany state that the LBBW-Wohnungen should be sold 'in the best way possible'. Therefore, other justified criteria, besides price, could also be taken into account. But if the offers were largely identical from an economic and legal point of view, the price would be the relevant criterion.

The sale process was the responsibility of LBBW and Germany. The Commission has been kept informed about the overall development of the sales process, but had not imposed any conditions. The Commission was not in a position to rule anything out, including conditions to protect tenants, given that the commitments came from Germany.

(Magyar változat)

Írásbeli választ igénylő kérdés P-010149/13
a Bizottság számára
Herczog Edit (S&D)
(2013. szeptember 11.)

Tárgy: Keretjelzálog-hitel

Nemrég lépett hatályba a hitelintézetekre vonatkozó prudenciális követelményekről szóló új irányelv és rendelet. Fontos célja a hitelezési kockázatok jobb kezelése. Öt hónapja politikai egyezségre jutottunk a jelzálog-hitelezési irányelvről, aminek célja, hogy elősegítse a felelős hitelezést és a fogyasztók kellő védelmét.

Képviselői munkámban számos esetben tapasztaltam, hogy sok bank olyan biztosítékot köt ki, amely a vevőkre hárítja annak kockázatát, ha a kivitelezésre folyósított hitelt a beruházó nem fizeti vissza. Az úgynevezett keretjelzálogjogot kikötő szerződések alapján a bankok jóhiszemű, de a jogban járatlan emberektől követelhetik a beruházó tartozásának megfizetését, akiket ezért önhibájukon kívül kilakoltatás is fenyeget.

A beruházók tartozásáról a bankok a banktitokra hivatkozva nem adnak felvilágosítást, mondván, ők nincsenek közvetlen jogviszonyban a vevőkkel. Annyira azonban mégiscsak vannak, hogy a bank elárvereztetheti a kifizetett lakásukat.

Erre a problémára azonban az említett jogszabályokban nem találtam orvoslatot. Helyesli-e Ön az olyan szerződéskötési gyakorlatot, amely a fogyasztókat/vevőket teszi anyagilag felelőssé a beruházó tartozásaiért? Elvárható-e az emberektől, hogy ezt a kockázatot felismerjék és eredményesen elhárítsák? Bár minden banknak elemi kötelessége a hitelek beszedése, szerintem elfogadhatatlan, hogy a kockázatkezelésre felkészült bankok a hitelezés kockázatát a fogyasztókra/vevőkre hárítsák. Mit kíván a Bizottság tenni azért, hogy ilyen biztosítékot a jövőben a bankok ne köthessenek ki jogszerűen?

Michel Barnier válasza a Bizottság nevében
(2013. október 18.)

A lakóingatlanokra vonatkozó hitelmegállapodásokról szóló irányelv, amellyel kapcsolatban a Bizottság azt reméli, hogy még idén ősszel elfogadásra kerül, annak biztosításra szolgál, hogy a lakóingatlanokra vonatkozó hitelmegállapodásokat kötő fogyasztók magas szintű védelmet élvezzenek a szerződéskötést megelőző szakaszban.

Kivitelezendő ingatlanfejlesztési projektek esetében a fogyasztókat gyakran arra kötelezik, hogy előzetesen jelentős összegeket fizessenek a projektgazdáknak. A banktitokra vonatkozó szabályok miatt a fogyasztók azonban gyakran nem feltétlenül vannak tisztában az ingatlanfejlesztési projekt projektgazdájának fizetőképességével. A hatályos nemzeti jogszabályoktól függően előfordulhat, hogy a fogyasztókat közvetve felelősnek tartják olyan esetekben, amikor a projektgazda a továbbiakban nem tud megfelelni a hitelező felé fennálló pénzügyi kötelezettségeinek. Annak lehetővé tétele érdekében, hogy a tagállamok hatékonyabb védelmet nyújthassanak a szükséges jogi ismeretekkel nem rendelkező fogyasztók számára, a lakóingatlanokra vonatkozó hitelmegállapodásokról szóló irányelvben a következő preambulumbekezdés szerepel: „Tekintettel az egyes tagállamoknak a lakóingatlanok adásvételével kapcsolatos eljárásai közötti különbségekre, a hitelezők vagy hitelközvetítők megpróbálkozhatnak azzal, hogy előlegfizetést kérjenek a fogyasztóktól azzal az indokkal, hogy az segítheti a hitelmegállapodás megkötését vagy az ingatlan adásvételének létrejöttét. Ez a gyakorlat különösen akkor adhat alkalmat visszaélésekre, ha a fogyasztók nem ismerik az adott tagállam előírásait és szokásos eljárásait. Ezért indokolt lehetőséget adni a tagállamoknak arra, hogy az előlegfizetésekre vonatkozóan korlátozásokat írjanak elő."

A Bizottság reményei szerint a preambulumbekezdés egyértelműen tükrözi a tagállamok számára annak szükségességét, hogy megfelelő nemzeti intézkedéseket hozzanak a tisztelt képviselő úr által említett kockázatok megelőzésére.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010149/13
to the Commission
Edit Herczog (S&D)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Framework mortgage loans

The new directive and regulation on prudential requirements for credit institutions recently came into force, the main objective of which is improved management of credit risk. Five months ago we reached a political agreement on the Mortgage Credit Directive, which aims to promote responsible lending and provide consumers with the necessary protection.

In my work as an MEP I have seen many instances of banks arranging collateral whereby the risk is passed on to the customer in the event of the investor not repaying the loan received. On the basis of so-called framework mortgage agreements, banks can demand repayment of the investor's debts from people acting in good faith but who are unversed in the law, and who as a result face the threat of eviction through no fault of their own.

Banks do not provide information on investors' debts — on the grounds of banking secrecy — and insist that they are not in a direct legal relationship with the customers. They are, however, in such a relationship to the extent that a bank can have a customer's fully-paid-for apartment put up for auction.

I have been unable to find a means of redress in the legislation referred to. Do you endorse a practice of concluding agreements in which the consumer/customer is made financially responsible for the debts of the investor? Should people be expected to recognise and be able to prevent this risk? Even though a fundamental requirement of every bank is to collect on loans, I consider it unacceptable for banks which are set up to deal with debt management to pass on credit risk to the consumer/customer. What action does the Commission intend to take in order to ensure that banks will be unable legally to make such arrangements in future?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(18 October 2013)

The directive on credit agreements relating to residential immovable property (or 'MCD'), which the Commission hopes to see adopted this autumn, aims to ensure that consumers entering into credit agreements relating to residential immovable property benefit from a high level of protection at pre-contractual stage.

For real estate projects to go ahead, consumers are sometimes obliged to advance important sums to promoters. Due to bank secrecy rules, consumers are however often not necessarily aware of the real estate promoter's financial solvability. Depending on the national legislation in place, it might happen that consumers are held indirectly reliable in the case where the promoter can no longer meet its financial obligations towards the creditor. To allow Member States to better protect consumers that often lack the necessary legal background, a recital has been included in the MCD, which reads: 'Given the differences between the processes for the purchase or sale of residential immovable property in the Member States, there is scope for creditors or credit intermediaries to seek to receive payments in advance from consumers on the understanding that such payments could help to secure the conclusion of a credit agreement or the purchase or sale of an immovable property, and for such practices to be misused in particular where consumers are unfamiliar with the requirements and usual practice in that Member State. It is therefore appropriate to allow Member States to impose restrictions on such payments.'

The Commission hopes that the recital sends a clear signal to Member States on the need to take appropriate national measures to prevent the risks mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010150/13
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(11 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: VP/HR — Hostigamientos y ataques a homosexuales en Rusia

A lo largo de los últimos meses, hemos podido contemplar a través de los medios de comunicación cómo en Rusia se está produciendo un incremento de las agresiones a personas homosexuales por parte de grupos de extrema derecha.

Estos grupos han llegado a secuestrar, torturar e incluso asesinar a personas por el simple hecho de ser homosexuales y*, por ahora, no se han tomado medidas en el Gobierno ruso para terminar con las actividades de estos grupos de extrema derecha y garantizar la seguridad del colectivo LGTB en el país.*

Por otra parte, el Gobierno ruso ha aprobado recientemente una ley contra la *«propaganda homosexual», así como la prohibición de adoptar por parte de personas con «orientación sexual no tradicional». Estas reformas, que suponen medidas muy conservadoras, legitiman, a través de las leyes, la discriminación que está sufriendo este colectivo.*

A raíz de estos acontecimientos, numerosos miembros del Parlamento Europeo dirigi*eron una carta a las principales instituciones de la Unión el pasado 4 de septiembre para expresar su preocupación por estos hechos. La carta insiste en que las negociaciones que lleven a cabo estas instituciones con Rusia durante la reunión del G20 en San Petersburgo tengan presente el respeto de los derechos fundamentales de las personas LGTB.*

¿En qué forma plantea la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante establecer un diálogo para que el Ejecutivo ruso dé marcha atrás en sus recientes reformas legislativas contra los homosexuales del país?

¿Qué vías pretende emplear la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante para exigir firmemente a Rusia el cese de los ataques y hostigamientos a la comunidad LGTB del país?

Respuesta de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta Ashton en nombre de la Comisión
(6 de noviembre de 2013)

La Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta es plenamente consciente de los hechos a los que se refiere Su Señoría y ha seguido con mucha atención su curso, habiendo expresado públicamente su decepción por la adopción, primero a escala regional y ahora también a nivel nacional, de leyes que prohíben la «propaganda homosexual». La Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta considera que esta Ley conduce a la estigmatización de determinados grupos e individuos y a prácticas y discursos políticos discriminatorios hacia ellos. Esta ley, por tanto, está en contradicción con el Convenio Europeo de Derechos Humanos. La UE sigue de cerca esta cuestión y, en particular, el impacto de esta legislación sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Rusia.

La UE ha aprovechado las dos últimas rondas de sus consultas periódicas de derechos humanos con la Federación de Rusia (diciembre de 2012 y mayo de 2013) para interesarse por la conformidad de la Ley de «propaganda homosexual» con los compromisos internacionales de Rusia y, en particular, con el Convenio Europeo de Derechos Humanos, así como para instar a dicho país a modificar la norma en cuestión para hacerla conforme a sus compromisos. La siguiente ronda de estas consultas sobre derechos humanos está prevista para antes de final de año y debería permitir a la Unión Europea expresar de nuevo su punto de vista sobre la cuestión. Este tema será planteado nuevamente durante las reuniones bilaterales con las autoridades rusas que se celebrarán entretanto. La Unión Europea seguirá prestando su apoyo a las organizaciones de la sociedad civil de Rusia, sobre todo a través de la IEDDH.

La UE, por lo tanto, planteará sus inquietudes de todas las maneras adecuadas, así como en todos los foros internacionales pertinentes en materia de derechos humanos, tal y como lo hizo el pasado 17 de septiembre en el Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010150/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Harassment and attacks against homosexuals in Russia

In recent months, media sources have informed us of the increase in the number of attacks against homosexuals in Russia by far right groups.

These groups have managed to kidnap, torture and even kill people simply because they are gay and, so far, the Russian Government has not taken measures to stop the activities of these far right groups and ensure the safety of the LGBT community in the country.

Moreover, the Russian Government has recently approved a law against 'homosexual propaganda', and banned people of 'non-traditional sexual orientation' from adopting. These reforms, which are very conservative measures, legitimise, through the laws, the discrimination this group is facing.

Following these events, several Members of the European Parliament sent a letter to the Union's main institutions on 4 September expressing their concern about these facts. The letter insists that in the negotiations that these institutions are holding with Russia during the G20 meeting in Saint Petersburg there should be respect for the fundamental rights of LGBT people.

In what way does the Vice-President/High Represent plan to establish a dialogue so that the Russian Government reverses its recent legislative reforms against homosexuals in the country?

What means does the Vice-President/High Representative intend to use to firmly insist that Russia puts an end to the attacks and harassment against the country's LGBT community?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

The HR/VP is fully aware of the developments referred to by the Honourable Member. She has been following these developments very closely, expressing publically her disappointment with the adoption, first at regional, and now also at national level, of bills prohibiting 'homosexual propaganda'. The HR/VP believes that this law leads to the stigmatisation of particular groups and individuals and to discriminatory practices and discourse against them. This law is therefore in contradiction with the European Convention on Human Rights. The EU is closely monitoring this issue and notably the impact of this legislation on the situation of human rights in Russia.

The EU has used the last two recent rounds of its regular Human Rights Consultations with the Russian Federation (December 2012 and May 2013) to enquire about the conformity of the 'homosexual propaganda' law with Russia's international commitments, in particular with the European Convention on Human Rights, and to invite Russia to amend it so as to put it in conformity with its committments. The next round of these Human Rights Consultations should take place before the end of the year and should allow the European Union to state again its views on the matter. The issue will also continue to be raised during bilateral meetings with the Russian authorities to be held in the meantime. The European Union will continue to support civil society organisations in Russia notably through the EIDHR.

The EU will therefore raise its concerns in all appropriate formats as well as in all relevant Human Rights international fora, as it most recently did on 17 September in the context of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010151/13
a la Comisión
Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE)
(11 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Extradición de Alexandr Pavlov

El pasado 17 de mayo, el Consejo de Ministros de España decidió continuar con la extradición del ciudadano kazajo Alexandr Pavlov, haciendo caso omiso de su solicitud de asilo en España.

En Kazajistán, Pavlov está acusado de terrorismo, apropiación indebida y malversación de fondos. Sus abogados alegan que estas acusaciones son fabricadas y realmente tienen que ver con sus vínculos con el opositor político Mukhtar Ablyazov, para quien Pavlov trabajó como hombre de confianza y guardia de seguridad desde 1995. Ablyazov es exiliado político en el Reino Unido desde 2011, cuando demostró que estaba en riesgo de sufrir persecución y otras serias violaciones de derechos humanos si volvía a Kazajistán.

Por otra parte, en junio, el Gobierno de Polonia decidió no conceder la extradición solicitada por Kazajistán en relación a Muratbek Ketebaev, otro colaborador de Mukhtar Ablyazov. Las autoridades polacas concluyeron que el Gobierno de Kazajistán no había demostrado que las acusaciones en su contra no constituyesen persecución política.

La organización Amnistía Internacional ha publicado recientemente los informes «Old habits, the routine use of torture and other ill-treatment in Kazakhstan» y «Return to torture: forcible returns and removals to central Asia»; que denuncian graves violaciones de derechos humanos en países de Asia Central, y particularmente en Kazajistán.

¿Está la Comisión informada sobre el proceso de extradición de Alexandr Pavlov?

¿Tiene la Comisión previsto tomar medidas para evitar que países de la Unión Europea extraditen ilegalmente, como en el caso de Alexandr Pavlov?

¿Considera la Comisión necesaria la homogenización de criterios entre los Estados miembros en los casos de extradición para evitar la disparidad observada ente España y Polonia?

Respuesta de la Sra. Malmström en nombre de la Comisión
(5 de diciembre de 2013)

La Comisión remite a Su Señoría a la respuesta dada a la pregunta escrita E-009748/2013 ([1]).

La UE plantea y seguirá planteando cuestiones de justicia y asuntos de interior, así como cuestiones relacionadas con los derechos humanos en su diálogo político con Kazajistán, de manera coherente y a todos los niveles, particularmente en el marco de la reunión anual sobre justicia y asuntos de interior y del diálogo sobre derechos humanos que se celebró los días 27 y 28 de noviembre de 2013 en Astana.

Por lo que se refiere a las cuestiones relativas a la extradición, este asunto es competencia de los Estados miembros y se resuelve de conformidad con lo dispuesto en la legislación nacional y en los tratados internacionales.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/es/parliamentary-questions.html

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010151/13
to the Commission
Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Extradition of Alexandr Pavlov

On17 May 2013, the Spanish Council of Ministers decided to proceed with the extradition of Kazakh citizen Alexandr Pavlov, disregarding his request for asylum in Spain.

In Kazakhstan, Pavlov is accused of terrorism, misappropriation of funds and embezzlement. His lawyers claim that these accusations are false and are in fact related to his ties with political opponent Mukhtar Ablyazov, for whom Pavlov has worked as right-hand man and security guard since 1995. Ablyazov has been in political exile in the United Kingdom since 2011, when he proved that he was at risk of persecution and other serious human rights violations if he returned to Kazakhstan.

However, in June, the Polish Government decided not to grant the extradition sought by Kazakhstan in relation to Muratbek Ketebaev, another colleague of Mukhtar Ablyazov. The Polish authorities concluded that the Kazakh Government had failed to prove that the accusations made against him did not constitute political persecution.

The organisation Amnesty International has recently published the reports 'Old habits: The routine use of torture and other ill-treatment in Kazakhstan' and 'Return to torture: forcible returns and removals to central Asia', which denounce serious human rights violations in Central Asian countries, and particularly in Kazakhstan.

Is the Commission being kept informed of Alexandr Pavlov's extradition process?

Does the Commission plan to take measures to ensure that EU countries do not become involved in unlawful extraditions, as is the case of Alexandr Pavolv?

Does the Commission believe that it is necessary to homogenise criteria between Member States in extradition cases so as to avoid the disparity seen between Spain and Poland?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(5 December 2013)

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-009748/2013 ([1]).

The EU raises and will continue to raise justice and home affairs issues as well as human rights issues in its political dialogue with Kazakhstan consistently and at all levels and in particular in the framework of the annual Justice and Home Affairs Committee and Human Rights Dialogue which took place on 27-28 November 2013 in Astana.

Regarding the questions pertaining to extradition, this is under the competence of Member States and is done in accordance with national law and international treaties.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010152/13
a la Comisión
Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE)
(11 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Impresoras 3D y contaminación atmosférica

Según un estudio realizado por el Instituto de Tecnología de Illinois en Chicago, las impresoras 3D son una fuente de partículas ultrafinas cuando están en funcionamiento ([1]). Esas partículas, de entre 11,5 y 115 nanómetros, se producen en un número de miles de millones por minuto cuando la impresora está trabajando.

Esas partículas pueden ser respiradas por los operarios de esas impresoras y depositarse en las vías respiratorias, pudiéndose, según los expertos, producirse problemas de salud.

¿Tiene la Comisión conocimiento de ese estudio?

¿Es consciente la Comisión del problema de salud laboral que pueden ocasionar esas impresoras?

A la vista de la posible proliferación de impresoras 3D, ¿cree la Comisión que podría ser conveniente establecer algún tipo de regulación para controlar el entorno de operación de esas impresoras y evitar, en lo posible, la dispersión de partículas ultrafinas y su inspiración por parte de los operarios?

Respuesta del Sr. Tajani en nombre de la Comisión
(6 de noviembre de 2013)

Las impresoras de objetos tridimensionales (3D), llamadas con más propiedad máquinas de fabricación por adición, están sujetas a la Directiva sobre máquinas ([2]), que obliga a los fabricantes a evitar riesgos debidos a la inhalación de sustancias peligrosas y equipar la maquinaria para que pueda contener, evacuar o filtrar las emisiones peligrosas que no puedan eliminarse. En las instrucciones del fabricante también deben indicarse las precauciones que tiene que tomar el usuario para hacer frente a riesgos residuales ([3]).

Estos requisitos están corroborados por normas europeas armonizadas. Ya existen normas para evaluar las emisiones de sustancias peligrosas por las máquinas y reducir los riesgos para la salud ([4]). Sin embargo, no existe ninguna norma específica para máquinas de fabricación por adición. Ya han comenzado a nivel internacional las labores de normalización al respecto. La Comisión animará a las organizaciones europeas de normalización a que participen en este trabajo para que se elaboren normas armonizadas.

Por lo que se refiere a los posibles efectos adversos por exposición a partículas ultrafinas, la legislación de la UE sobre salud y seguridad de los trabajadores obliga a los empleadores a evaluar y prevenir todos esos riesgos ([5]). Entre las medidas que deben tomarse figuran la elección de un equipo de trabajo adecuado ([6]), la reducción de los riesgos debidos a sustancias o preparados químicos que se utilicen ([7]), el acondicionamiento de los lugares de trabajo ([8]) y el uso de equipos de protección individual adecuados ([9]).

([1]) http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231013005086
([2]) Directiva 2006/42/CE del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo, de 17 de mayo de 2006, relativa a las máquinas.
([3]) Véanse las secciones 1.5.13 y 1.7.4.2 del anexo I de la Directiva 2006/42/CE.
([4]) Norma EN 1093, partes 1 a 11: Seguridad de las máquinas. Valoración de la emisión de sustancias peligrosas transportadas por el aire, y norma EN 626, partes 1 y 2: Seguridad de las máquinas. Reducción de riesgos para la salud debido a sustancias peligrosas emitidas por las máquinas.
([5]) Directiva 89/391/CEE del Consejo, de 12 de junio de 1989, relativa a la aplicación de medidas para promover la mejora de la seguridad y de la salud de los trabajadores en el trabajo.
([6]) Directiva 2009/104/CE del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo, de 16 de septiembre de 2009, relativa a las disposiciones mínimas de seguridad y de salud para la utilización por los trabajadores en el trabajo de los equipos de trabajo.
([7]) Directiva 98/24/CE del Consejo, de 7 de abril de 1998, relativa a la protección de la salud y la seguridad de los trabajadores contra los riesgos relacionados con los agentes químicos durante el trabajo.
([8]) Directiva 89/654/CEE del Consejo, de 30 de noviembre de 1989, relativa a las disposiciones mínimas de salud y seguridad en los lugares de trabajo.
([9]) Directiva 89/656/CEE del Consejo, de 30 de noviembre de 1989, relativa a las disposiciones mínimas de seguridad y de salud para la utilización por los trabajadores en el trabajo de equipos de protección individual.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010152/13
to the Commission
Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: 3D printers and air pollution

According to a study carried out by the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, 3D printers are a source of ultrafine particles when they are in use [1]. Thousands of millions of these particles of between 11.5 and 115 nanometres are produced per minute when the printer is in operation.

These particles can be inhaled by users of these printers and deposited in the airways, which, according to the experts, could cause health problems.

Is the Commission aware of this study?

Is the Commission aware of the work-related health problem these printers can cause?

Given the possibility of 3D printers becoming widespread, does the Commission believe that it might be appropriate to establish some kind of regulation to control the operational environment of these printers and, as far as possible, prevent these ultrafine particles from being emitted and inhaled by users?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

3D printers, more accurately described as additive manufacturing machines, are subject to the EU Machinery Directive [2] which requires manufacturers to avoid risks due to inhalation of hazardous substances and to equip machinery in order to contain, evacuate or filter hazardous emissions that cannot be eliminated. The manufacturer's instructions must also indicate the precautions to be taken by users to deal with residual risks [3].

These requirements are supported by European harmonised standards. There are already standards for the evaluation of emissions from machinery of hazardous substances and for reducing risks to health [4]. However, there is no specific standard for additive manufacturing machinery. Standardisation work on this subject has started at international level. The Commission will encourage the European standardisation organisations to participate in this work with a view to the development of the necessary harmonised standards.

As regards the possible adverse effects on workers health due to exposure to ultrafine particles, EU legislation on workers health and safety requires employers to evaluate and prevent all risks for the health and safety of workers [5]. The measures to be taken include the choice of appropriate work equipment [6], the reduction of risks due to chemical substances or preparations used [7], the fitting-out of workplaces [8] and the use of appropriate personal protective equipment [9].

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(1) http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231013005086.
(2) Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery.
(3) See sections 1.5.13 and 1.7.4.2 of Annex I to Directive 2006/42/EC.
(4) Standard EN 1093, Parts 1 to 11 — Safety of machinery — Evaluation of the emission of airborne hazardous substances, and Standard EN 626, Parts 1 and 2 — Safety of machinery — Reduction of risk to health from hazardous substances emitted by machinery.
(5) Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work.
(6) Directive 2009/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work.
(7) Council Directive 98/24/EC of 7 April 1998 on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work.
(8) Council Directive 89/654/EEC of 30 November 1989 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace.
(9) Council Directive 89/656/EEC of 30 November 1989 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010153/13
a la Comisión
Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE)
(11 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Impulso a las energías renovables

El pasado 24 de agosto, la Asociación Europea por las Energías Renovables — Eurosolar celebró su 25 aniversario en Bonn. En el contexto de dicha celebración, se elaboró un manifiesto donde proponen a la Unión una serie de medidas para impulsar el desarrollo de las energías renovables.

Entre las medidas propuestas están: el establecemiento de una estrategia hacia un futuro energético descentralizado basado en energías renovables, la creación de una Agencia Europea para las Energías Renovables, el establecimiento de planes para el abandono de la energía nuclear o el establecimiento de infraestructuras transeuropeas para la producción descentralizada de energía.

¿Conoce la Comisión las propuestas realizadas por Eurosolar el pasado 25 de agosto?

¿Qué opinión tiene la Comisión sobre cada una de las propuestas concretas?

¿Considera la Comisión interesante la creación de una Agencia Europea para las Energías Renovables? ¿Piensa dar pasos en ese sentido?

¿Qué opinión tiene la Comisión sobre la propuesta de establecimiento de planes para el abandono de la energía nuclear?

Respuesta del Sr. Oettinger en nombre de la Comisión
(21 de octubre de 2013)

La Comisión tiene pleno conocimiento del manifiesto de la Asociación Europea por las Energía Renovables y lo reflejará en las propuestas recogidas en la próxima Comunicación sobre política energética para el período hasta 2030.

La Comisión desempeñó hace unos años un papel fundamental en la creación de la Agencia Internacional de Energías Renovables (IRENA), en la que participa activamente. Actualmente, considera preferible colaborar con esta Agencia en vez de poner en marcha una agencia europea de energías renovables.

Tal como establece el Tratado de la UE, la Comisión no tiene ninguna opinión concreta sobre la utilización de la energía nuclear, ya que la decisión sobre la combinación de fuentes de energía corresponde a los Estados miembros.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010153/13
to the Commission
Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Boost for renewable energy

On 24 August 2013, the European Association for Renewable Energy — Eurosolar celebrated its 25th anniversary in Bonn. As part of this celebration, a manifesto was drawn up in which a series of measures was proposed to the EU in order to encourage the development of renewable energy.

Among the proposed measures are: the establishment of a strategy towards a decentralised energy future founded on renewable energy sources, the creation of a European Agency for Renewable Energy, the establishment of plans to abandon nuclear energy and the development of trans-European infrastructure projects for decentralised energy production.

Does the Commission know about the proposals made by Eurosolar on 25 August?

What view does the Commission take on each of the specific proposals?

Is the Commission interested in the creation of a European Agency for Renewable Energy? Does it intend to take action in this regard?

What is the Commission's opinion on the proposal to establish plans to abandon nuclear energy?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(21 October 2013)

The Commission is fully aware of the manifesto of the European Association for Renewable Energy, and will reflect on the proposals made in the up-coming Communication on energy policy for the period up to 2030.

The Commission was central in the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) some years ago, where it is also an active member. Its preferred option at present is to work through this agency rather than starting a separate European Agency for renewable energy.

As set out in the EU Treaty, the Commission does not have any particular view on the use of nuclear energy, as it is a prerogative of Member State to decide on their energy mix.

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-010156/13
til Kommissionen
Ole Christensen (S&D)
(11. september 2013)

Om: Anvendelse af postkasseselskaber i transportsektoren

Ifølge EU forordning (EU) nr. 1071/2009 skal virksomheder, der udøver vejtransporterhverv, have et faktisk etableret og varigt forretningssted. For at opfylde kravet om et sådant forretningssted skal virksomheden blandt andet rumme lokaler, hvor virksomhedens kernedokumenter opbevares (artikel 5, litra a) samt besidde administration og driftscentral for virksomhedens indregistrerede køretøjer (artikel 5, litra c).

Disse regler skal sikre, at hvis en virksomhed anvender reglerne i en anden medlemsstat, skal den reelt være etableret i denne medlemsstat og have en reel tilknytning hertil.

For nylig er der i Danmark rapporteret om, at visse danske transportfirmaer har oprettet datterselskaber i Tyskland for at indregistrere deres lastbiler på tyske nummerplader og ansætte deres chauffører på tyske arbejdsvilkår.

Det forlyder samtidig, at datterselskaberne ikke lever op til kriterierne som nævnt i artikel 5 i ovennævnte forordning, idet den reelle aktivitet fortsat finder sted i hovedsædet i Danmark. Det vil sige, at datterselskaberne oprettes i Tyskland for at gøre brug af tyske regler, mens de hverken er etableret i eller har reel tilknytning til Tyskland.

Vil Kommissionen tage stilling til, om den beskrevne situation udgør et brud på reglerne om et datterselskabs reelle aktivitet i en anden medlemsstat som bestemt ved artikel 5 i forordning (EU) nr. 1071/2009? Vil Kommissionen endvidere tage stilling til, om Tyskland enten fejlfortolker eller ikke fører tilpas tilsyn med reglerne, hvis den tillader indregistrering af lastbiler i Tyskland og ansættelse af chauffører ved danske datterselskaber, der ikke har en reel tilknytning til Tyskland?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Siim Kallas
(23. oktober 2013)

Den frie udveksling af tjenesteydelser i transportsektoren er underlagt betingelserne i forordning (EF) nr. 1071/2009 ([1]). For at kunne udøve vejtransporterhvervet, herunder etablering af transportdattervirksomheder, skal en transportvirksomhed opfylde fire essentielle betingelser (betingelser om et faktisk etableret og varigt forretningssted, god vandel, et tilstrækkeligt økonomisk grundlag og faglige kvalifikationer). For at opfylde det første krav skal transportvirksomheden som oplyst af det ærede medlem:

a) råde over et forretningssted i denne medlemsstat, hvor dens kernedokumenter opbevares,

b) råde over et eller flere køretøjer, som er indregistreret eller på anden måde godkendt til kørsel i overensstemmelse med lovgivningen i denne medlemsstat, og

c) drive en driftscentral for disse køretøjer beliggende i denne medlemsstat.

I medfør af artikel 12 i forordning (EF) nr. 1071/2009 er medlemsstaterne, ved hjælp af målrettet kontrol, ansvarlige for at overvåge, hvorvidt virksomheder fortsat opfylder etableringskravene. I de tilfælde, hvor der foreligger tydelige beviser, kan Kommissionen ligeledes anmode den pågældende medlemsstat om at foretage individuel kontrol.

Såfremt ovenstående betingelser er opfyldt, kan transportvirksomheden i overensstemmelse med den frie udveksling af tjenesteydelser udøve sin drift i enhver medlemsstat. Ved udøvelse i en anden medlemsstat skal betingelserne i forordning (EF) nr. 1072/2009 om fælles regler for adgang til markedet for international godskørsel ([2]) opfyldes. Ud fra de beviser, som det ærede medlem har fremlagt, er det derfor ikke muligt at slå fast, hvorvidt disse virksomheder overtræder forordningen.

([1]) Europa-Parlamentets og Rådets forordning (EF) nr. 1071/2009 af 21. oktober 2009 om fælles regler om betingelser for udøvelse af vejtransporterhvervet og om ophævelse af Rådets direktiv 96/26/EF, EUT L 300 af 14.11.2009.
([2]) Europa-Parlamentets og Rådets forordning (EF) nr. 1072/2009 af 21. oktober 2009 om fælles regler for adgang til markedet for international godskørsel, EUT L 300 af 14.11.2009.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010156/13
to the Commission
Ole Christensen (S&D)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Use of letter box companies in the transport sector

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009, undertakings engaged in the occupation of road transport operator shall have an effective and stable establishment. In order to meet the requirement for such an establishment, the undertaking shall, among other things, have premises in which it keeps its core business documents (Article 5(a)) and have an administrative system and operating centre for the undertaking's registered vehicles (Article 5(c)).

These rules are intended to ensure that, if an undertaking applies the rules in another Member State, it must be actually established in, and have a genuine link with, that Member State.

Recently it has been reported in Denmark that certain Danish transport firms have set up subsidiary companies in Germany in order to register their commercial vehicles with German number plates and employ their drivers under German working conditions.

The reports also state that the subsidiary companies do not meet the criteria specified in Article 5 of the aforementioned Regulation, as the actual activity continues to take place at the headquarters in Denmark. In other words, the subsidiary companies were set up in Germany in order to benefit from German rules, but they are not established in Germany nor do they have any genuine link with that country.

In the Commission's opinion, does the situation described constitute a breach of the rules concerning a subsidiary company's actual activity in another Member State in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009? Does it believe that Germany is either misinterpreting the rules or not monitoring them adequately if it allows the registration of commercial vehicles in Germany and the employment of drivers by Danish subsidiaries that do not have a genuine link with Germany?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(23 October 2013)

The freedom to provide services in the road haulage sector is subject to the conditions of Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 [1]. To pursue the occupation of road transport operator, including in the case of establishing a transport subsidiary, a road transport undertaking must fulfill four core conditions (the conditions of effective and stable establishment, of good repute, of financial standing, and of professional competence). As stated by the Honourable Member, in order to comply with the first requirement, the operator must:

(a) have an establishment in that Member State with premises in which it keeps its core business documents;

(b) have at its disposal one or more vehicles which are registered or otherwise put into circulation in conformity with the legislation of that Member State;

(c) conduct its operations concerning these vehicles at an operating centre situated in that Member State.

Under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009, Member States are responsible for monitoring whether undertakings continue to fulfil the requirements of establishment, carrying out targeted checks. In cases supported by clear evidence, the Commission may also request that Member States carry out individual checks.

If the conditions above are fulfilled, in line with the freedom to provide services, the operator is free to conduct its operations in any Member State. If operating in another Member State, the conditions of Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 on access to the international road haulage market [2] must be complied with. From the evidence provided by the Honourable Member, it is therefore not possible to determine whether these companies are infringing the regulation.

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[1] Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator and repealing Council Directive 96/26/EC, OJ L 300, 14.11.2009.

[2] Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 on common rules for access to the international road haulage market , OJ L 300, 14.11.2009.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-010157/13
an die Kommission
Axel Voss (PPE)
(11. September 2013)

Betrifft: Britisches Ampelmodell zur Nährwertkennzeichnung von Lebensmitteln

Die britische Regierung hat im Juni 2013 im Rahmen einer gemeinsamen Initiative mit Handel und Herstellern ein Ampelmodell für eine Nährwertkennzeichnung bei Lebensmitteln eingeführt.

In diesem Zusammenhang wird die Kommission um Beantwortung folgender Fragen ersucht:

1. Wird nach Einschätzung der Kommission durch diese Initiative faktisch eine verbindliche nationale Kennzeichnung eingeführt, wodurch die Firmen, die dieser Regelung nicht folgen, öffentlich unter Druck gesetzt werden?

2. Wie bewertet die Kommission die Tatsache, dass durch diese Regelung gerade kleine und mittelständische Hersteller von Lebensmitteln getroffen werden, da sie innerhalb der EU nicht mehr einheitliche Verpackungen für ihre Erzeugnisse verwenden können?

3. Behindert das britische Ampelmodell nach Auffassung der Kommission dadurch nicht den einheitlichen EU-Binnenmarkt und widerspricht damit Artikel 35 Absatz 1 Buchstabe g der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1169/2011?

4. Erfüllt das britische Ampelsystem aus Sicht der Kommission die Voraussetzungen von Artikel 35 Absatz 1 Buchstabe a der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1169/2011 und beruht es auf fundierten und wissenschaftlich haltbaren Erkenntnissen der Verbraucherforschung?

5. Ist diese Regelung im Sinne der oben genannten EG-Verordnung europarechtswidrig?

6. Prüft die Kommission die Einleitung eines Vertragsverletzungsverfahren gegen Großbritannien? Wenn nein, warum nicht?

Antwort von Herrn Borg im Namen der Kommission
(21. Oktober 2013)

Das im Vereinigten Königreich eingeführte Ampelmodell zur Nährwertkennzeichnung ist ein freiwilliges System; Einzelhändler und Lebensmittelhersteller können nicht dazu gezwungen werden, es einzusetzen.

Kleine und mittlere Hersteller von Lebensmitteln sind nicht stärker betroffen als andere Lebensmittelunternehmen, da sie nicht zum Einsatz dieses freiwilligen Systems gezwungen werden können.

Wegen seiner Freiwilligkeit schafft ein solches Modell kein juristisches Handelshemmnis. Einige britische Unternehmen haben öffentlich angekündigt, das Modell verwenden zu wollen, während andere sich dagegen ausgesprochen haben. Daran zeigt sich, dass beim derzeitigen Stand der Dinge auch nicht davon ausgegangen werden kann, dass es sich faktisch um ein verbindliches System handelt.

Aus der Beantwortung der ersten Fragen ergibt sich, dass die Kommission die Einleitung eines Vertragsverletzungsverfahren gegen das Vereinigte Königreich nicht in Betracht zieht.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010157/13
to the Commission
Axel Voss (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: UK traffic light system for nutrition labelling of foodstuffs

In June 2013, the UK Government introduced a traffic light system for nutrition labelling of foodstuffs in a common initiative involving retailers and manufacturers.

1. In the Commission's view, is a mandatory national labelling system actually being introduced through this initiative, whereby companies that do not follow this system are put under public pressure?

2. What is the Commission's view of the fact that it is small and medium-sized manufacturers of foodstuffs in particular that are affected by this scheme, as they can no longer use uniform packaging for their products within the EU?

3. In the Commission's opinion, does the UK traffic light system not create an obstacle to the single EU internal market as a result of this, thereby contravening Article 35(1)(g) of Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011?

4. In its opinion, does the UK traffic light system meet the conditions of Article 35(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 for it to be based on sound and scientifically valid consumer research?

5. Does this scheme contravene EC law within the meaning of the aforementioned EC Regulation?

6. Is the Commission considering initiating an infringement procedure against the United Kingdom? If not, why not?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(21 October 2013)

The traffic light system for nutrition labelling introduced in the UK is a voluntary system, and retailers like food manufacturers cannot be forced to use it.

Small and medium-sized manufacturers of foodstuffs are not more particularly affected than other food companies, as they cannot be forced to use this voluntary scheme.

Because of its voluntary character, such scheme does not create a *de jure* barrier to trade. Some UK companies announced publicly that they would use the scheme, while others announced they would not, which shows that, as the situation stands today, the system cannot be considered as a *de facto* mandatory system either.

Considering the answers to the previous questions, the Commission is not considering initiating an infringement procedure against the UK.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-010158/13
an die Kommission
Franz Obermayr (NI)
(11. September 2013)

Betrifft: Verschiebung der Bonus-Obergrenze für Bankmanager

Die geplante Umsetzung einer Bonus-Obergrenze für Bankmanager ab 2014 soll erst frühestens 2015 in Angriff genommen werden. Diese Obergrenze der Bonuszahlungen von Bank-Mitarbeitern innerhalb der EU soll auf das doppelte des Basisgehaltes reduziert werden. Das betrifft Banker, die pro Jahr mehr als 500 000 EUR verdienen.

Daher wird die Kommission um Beantwortung folgender Fragen ersucht:

1. Wie rechtfertigt die Kommission die Verschiebung der Regelung für die Bonus-Obergrenze für Bankmanager?

2. Welche Interessensvertretungen waren in die Entscheidung zur Verschiebung involviert?

3. Kann die Kommission versprechen, dass die Bonus-Obergrenze in dieser Form tatsächlich 2015 als Vorschlag auf den Tisch kommt?

4. Wenn nein, warum nicht?

5. Wann rechnet die Kommission spätestens mit der Fertigstellung eines Entwurfs?

Antwort von Herrn Barnier im Namen der Kommission
(31. Oktober 2013)

Was die Umsetzung und Anwendung der in der neuen Eigenkapitalrichtlinie („CRD IV" ([1])) festgelegten Grundsätze für ein angemessenes Verhältnis zwischen der festen und der variablen Komponente der Gesamtvergütung betrifft, möchte die Kommission auf Artikel 162 Absatz 3 CRD IV verweisen. Gemäß dieser Bestimmung müssen die Mitgliedstaaten die Institute verpflichten, diese Grundsätze ab 1. Januar 2014 auf die Vergütung für erbrachte Dienstleistungen oder für Leistungen anzuwenden, unabhängig davon, ob diese aufgrund bestehender oder neuer Verträge zu leisten ist.

Was die Ermittlung der Personen betrifft, die wesentliche Risiken eingehen, arbeitet die EBA zurzeit an Entwürfen technischer Regulierungsstandards, in denen qualitative sowie angemessene quantitative Kriterien für die Ermittlung der Mitarbeiterkategorien, deren berufliche Tätigkeit sich gemäß Artikel 92 Absatz 2 CRD IV wesentlich auf das Risikoprofil des Instituts auswirkt, festgelegt werden sollen. Gemäß Artikel 94 Absatz 2 CRD IV legt sie der Kommission diese Entwürfe bis zum 31. März 2014 vor. Sobald diese Entwürfe der Kommission förmlich vorgelegt sind, wird diese die ihr übertragenen Befugnisse gemäß den Artikeln 10 bis 14 der Verordnung (EU) Nr. 1093/2010 wahrnehmen.

([1]) Richtlinie 2013/36/EU des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 26. Juni 2013 über den Zugang zur Tätigkeit von Kreditinstituten und die Beaufsichtigung von Kreditinstituten und Wertpapierfirmen, zur Änderung der Richtlinie 2002/87/EG und zur Aufhebung der Richtlinien 2006/48/EG und 2006/49/EG, ABl. L 176 vom 27.6.2013, S. 338.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010158/13
to the Commission
Franz Obermayr (NI)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Postponement of the bonus ceiling for bank managers

The planned implementation of a bonus ceiling for bank managers from 2014 onwards is now not intended to be put into effect until 2015 at the earliest. The ceiling for bonus payments to bank employees within the EU is intended to be reduced to double their basic salary. This will affect bankers who earn more than EUR 500 000 a year.

1. How does the Commission justify the postponement of the bonus ceiling system for bank managers?

2. Which lobby groups were involved in the postponement decision?

3. Can the Commission promise that the bonus ceiling in its current form will actually be tabled as a proposal in 2015?

4. If not, why not?

5. By when at the latest does the Commission expect a draft to be ready?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(31 October 2013)

As regards the transposition and application of the principles laid down in the new Capital Requirements Directive (‘CRD IV’ ([1])) concerning the appropriate ratios between the fixed and the variable component of the total remuneration, the Commission would refer to Article 162(3) of CRD IV. Pursuant to this provision, in essence, Member States shall require institutions to apply the principles referred to above to remuneration awarded for services provided or performance from 1 January 2014 onwards, whether due on the basis of existing or new contracts.

As regards the identification of material risk takers, EBA is in the process of developing draft regulatory technical standards with respect to qualitative and appropriate quantitative criteria to identify categories of staff whose professional activities have a material impact on the institution’s risk profile as referred to in Article 92(2) of CRD IV. Pursuant to Article 94(2) of CRD IV, EBA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 31 March 2014. Once the draft regulatory technical standards are formally submitted to the Commission, the latter will exercise the power delegated to it in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010.

([1]) Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms, amending Directive 2002/87/EC and repealing Directives 2006/48/EC and 2006/49/EC, OJ L 176, 27.6.2013, p. 338.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-010159/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(11 Σεπτεμβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Η «φιλική Διευθέτηση» Cosco-ΟΛΠ

Στις 30.8.2013, υπεγράφη «Πρακτικό διαδικασίας φιλικής διευθέτησης ΑΡΘ. 33 § 2 και 3 της από 25.11.2008 παραχώρησης» μεταξύ της θυγατρικής εταιρίας της Cosco Ltd «Σταθμός Εμπορευματοκιβωτίων Πειραιά ΑΕ» (ΣΕΠ) και του Οργανισμού Λιμένος Πειραιώς (ΟΛΠ).

Με τη συμφωνία αυτή τα 2 μέρη (ΣΕΠ και ΟΛΠ) συμφωνούν, μεταξύ άλλων, η ΣΕΠ να αναλάβει την κατασκευή της επέκτασης της Προβλήτας ΙΙΙ, την αναβάθμιση της Προβλήτας ΙΙ αλλά και την κατασκευή νέας προβλήτας πετρελαιοειδών, η αποπληρωμή του κόστους της οποίας «θα γίνει σε 22 χρόνια, περιλαμβανομένων 2 ετών περιόδου χάριτος, από την παράδοση του έργου, με επιτόκιο Euribor συν 4%».

Στη συνέχεια της συμφωνίας ορίζεται ότι, το εγγυημένο αντάλλαγμα που προβλέπεται στην από 25-11-2008 υφιστάμενη σύμβαση (Ν. 3755/2009), αναστέλλεται και συνδέεται με το ΑΕΠ «μέχρις ότου το ΑΕΠ ανέλθει στο επίπεδο του 2008 +2% ετησίως».

Λαμβάνοντας επίσης υπόψη τις πληροφορίες ότι η Cosco ενδιαφέρεται επίσης για την αγορά του πλειοψηφικού πακέτου των μετοχών της ΟΛΠ ΑΕ.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

Πώς κρίνει την αναστολή του εγγυημένου ανταλλάγματος υπό τους όρους που αναφέρονται στην εν λόγω συμφωνία; Θεωρεί ότι με τον τρόπο αυτό καταστρατηγείται δομικό στοιχείο της αρχικής σύμβασης των δύο πλευρών;

Ο τρόπος με τον οποίο το κείμενο «Φιλικής Διευθέτησης» αντιμετωπίζει το θέμα για την παραχώρηση της κατασκευής επέκτασης της προβλήτας ΙΙΙ και της κατασκευής της προβλήτας πετρελαιοειδών στην Cosco, χωρίς να έχει προηγηθεί διεθνής διαγωνισμός, είναι σύμφωνος με την κοινοτική νομοθεσία περί δημοσίων έργων;

Σε τι σημείο βρίσκεται η έρευνα «που είχε ξεκινήσει τον Ιούλιο του 2012 η Επιτροπή για την αρχική σύμβαση», όπως με είχε ενημερώσει με την απάντηση E-009350/2012;

Απάντηση του κ. Almunia εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(17 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Όταν οι εξελίξεις αυτές γνωστοποιήθηκαν στην Επιτροπή, αυτή ζήτησε συμπληρωματικές πληροφορίες από τις ελληνικές αρχές. Στο αίτημα αυτό εξέφρασε την ανησυχία της για ενδεχόμενες κρατικές ενισχύσεις, καθώς και για ενδεχόμενη παραβίαση των κανόνων της ΕΕ σε ό,τι αφορά τις δημόσιες συμβάσεις. Αυτή τη στιγμή οι ελληνικές αρχές συνεργάζονται με την Επιτροπή και, λόγω του ότι η διαδικασία βρίσκεται σε εξέλιξη, προς το παρόν δεν είναι δυνατό να γνωστοποιηθούν περαιτέρω στοιχεία.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010159/13
to the Commission
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: 'Friendly arrangement' between Cosco and Piraeus Port Authority

A 'friendly arrangement' under clauses 33.2 and 33.3 of the franchise dated 25 November 2008 was signed on 30 August 2013 between the Cosco subsidiary Piraeus Container Terminal SA (PCT) and the Piraeus Port Authority (PPA).

This agreement states that the two parties (PCT and PPA) agree, among other things, that PCT will construct the Pier III extension, upgrade Pier II and construct a new oil tanker pier, the cost of which will be repaid 'over 22 years, including a 2-year period of grace from delivery of the project, at an interest rate of Euribor +4%'.

The agreement goes on to stipulate that the guaranteed consideration provided for in the current contract dated 25 November 2008 (Law 3755/2009) is suspended and linked to GDP 'until such time as GDP returns to 2008 levels +2% per annum'.

It is also rumoured that Cosco is interested in buying a majority holding in PPA SA.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What does it think about the suspension of the guaranteed consideration under the terms of the agreement in question? Does it think that this approach circumvents a structural element of the initial contract between the two parties?

Is the way in which the 'friendly arrangement' addresses the outsourcing of work to construct the Pier III extension and the oil tanker pier to Cosco, without first putting it out to international tender, in keeping with Union legislation on public works?

What progress has been made in the investigation into the initial contract initiated by the Commission in July 2012, as referred to in its reply E-009350/2012?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(17 October 2013)

When these developments were brought to its attention, the Commission requested further information from the Greek authorities. The request expressed concern with regard to possible state aid and to a possible infringement of EU rules on public procurement. The Greek authorities are currently cooperating with the Commission, and due to the fact that the process is ongoing, no further elements can be disclosed at this stage.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010160/13
to the Commission
Marian Harkin (ALDE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Incorrect transposition of Directive 85/337/EEC

In relation to ECJ Case C-50/09 (European Commission v Ireland) regarding the incorrect transposition of Directive 85/337/EEC, what is the legal status of planning permissions granted in Ireland in contravention of Article 3 or other articles of this directive, and what recourse is available to individuals who have been adversely affected by planning permissions granted in contravention of this EU legislation?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

The judgment in Case C-50/09 Commission v Ireland concerned Ireland's failure to transpose certain requirements of the directive 2011/92/EU ([1]) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The legal effects of planning permissions granted in Ireland prior to the judgment in that case and the rights of individuals that would arise from a Member State's failure to implement EC law are to be addressed by the national authorities according to national procedural legislation.

([1]) OJ L 26, 28.1.2012.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010161/13
alla Commissione
Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)
(11 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Bisogno di acqua

È noto che con l'aumento della popolazione e, conseguentemente, dei consumi, le risorse idriche risultano sempre più insufficienti. Il rapporto «The Global Water Crisis» pubblicato dall'Università delle Nazioni Unite prevede che entro il 2025 nei paesi in via di sviluppo il consumo di acqua aumenterà del 50 %, mentre nei paesi sviluppati sarà pari al 18 %. Si pone quindi il problema di garantire acqua per tutti, se si vuole evitare che entro il 2025 1,8 miliardi di persone non siano in grado di disporre di acqua in misura sufficiente. Certamente esisteranno progetti per assicurare alla popolazione mondiale la maggiore disponibilità possibile di questo elemento indispensabile per la vita, ma l'interrogante vorrebbe sapere a quali conclusioni è giunto il Forum organizzato dall'Unione per il Mediterraneo che ha avuto luogo recentemente a Bled, in Slovenia, e che ha dedicato una sessione speciale alle «sfide dell'acqua» in questo mare. Poiché l'informazione dei media su questo Forum è stata carente,

1. può la Commissione indicare se sono stati discussi progetti specifici relativi all'aumento delle risorse idriche nel bacino del Mediterraneo?

2. In caso affermativo, può indicare tali progetti e ricordarci a quanta parte della popolazione si riferiscono?

3. Esistono progetti europei specifici finanziati dal bilancio dell'Unione?

4. Può la Commissione indicare se l'UE partecipa a progetti delle Nazioni Unite e, in caso affermativo, a quali?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(21 novembre 2013)

Il video dell'intero evento organizzato dal forum strategico tenutosi a Bled dal 1° al 3 settembre, compresa la sessione sulle sfide idriche nella regione MENA, può essere consultato al link: http://www.bledstrategicforum.org/media/video/video_2013.

Come si evince dal video, i membri del panel hanno presentato diversi programmi di gestione ma l'unico progetto menzionato è stato quello relativo alla costruzione di un impianto di desalinizzazione a Gaza, che, con 55 metri cubi di capacità, si prevede possa fornire acqua a 1,7 milioni di palestinesi. Ulteriori informazioni possono essere reperite nel sito: http://ufmsecretariat.org/the-desalination-facility-for-the-gaza-strip-project/.

Nel quadro definito dal regolamento sullo strumento europeo di vicinato e partenariato (ENPI), l'Unione europea finanzia i progetti relativi alla gestione delle risorse idriche nella regione del Mediterraneo sia a livello nazionale sia a livello regionale, in particolare a sostegno dell'iniziativa Orizzonte 2020 per la decontaminazione del Mediterraneo e i piani d'azione bilaterali con i paesi partner. A livello regionale, una delle più importanti iniziative finanziate dall'UE relative alla gestione delle risorse idriche è il progetto «Sustainable Water Integrated Management» (Gestione sostenibile integrata delle risorse idriche — SWIM). Tale progetto comprende due componenti: un meccanismo di sostegno che dispone di un bilancio di 6,7 milioni di EUR e una sezione dedicata ai progetti dimostrativi che dispone di un bilancio di 15 milioni di EUR. Per ulteriori informazioni consultare il sito: www.swim-sm.eu.

L'UE non è direttamente coinvolta in alcun progetto diretto dall'ONU in materia di gestione delle risorse idriche nel Mediterraneo. Tuttavia, essa opera in stretta collaborazione con l'ONU, tra l'altro, nel contesto dell'iniziativa Orizzonte 2020 e della convenzione di Barcellona.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010161/13
to the Commission
Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Water demand

It is well known that the increase in the population and hence in consumption is leading to growing water shortages. The Global Water Crisis report, published by the United Nations University, predicts that water consumption in developing countries will rise by 50% by 2025, while in developed countries it will rise by 18%. The problem, therefore, is how to guarantee water for all so that, by 2025, 1.8 billion people are not in a situation where they do not have enough water for their needs. There will of course be projects aimed at making this life-sustaining element as accessible as possible to the global population, but it would be useful to know what conclusions were reached by the Forum that was held recently by the Union for the Mediterranean in Bled, Slovenia and which devoted a special session to the 'water challenges' in the Mediterranean Sea.

1. Given the lack of media coverage of this Forum, can the Commission say whether any specific projects relating to the increase in water resources in the Mediterranean basin were discussed?

2. If so, can it say what they are and what proportion of the population they relate to?

3. Are there any specific European projects financed by the EU budget?

4. Can the Commission say whether the EU is involved in any United Nations-led projects, and if so, which ones?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(21 November 2013)

The video of the complete event organised by the Bled Strategic Forum on 1-3 September, including the session on Water Challenges in the MENA Region, can be consulted at:
http://www.bledstrategicforum.org/media/video/video_2013
As you can see from the video, the panellists presented various governance programmes but the only project mentioned was the Gaza Desalinisation Plant project, which, with a 55 cubic metres capacity, is expected to supply water to 1.7 million Palestinians. More information can be obtained at http://ufmsecretariat.org/the-desalination-facility-for-the-gaza-strip-project/

Within the framework set out in the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) Regulation, the European Union finances projects dealing with water management in the Mediterranean region both at national and regional level, notably in support of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for the decontamination of the Mediterranean and the bilateral action plans with partner countries. At regional level, one of the most significant EU-funded initiatives related to water management is the project 'Sustainable Water Integrated Management' (SWIM). SWIM has two components: a support mechanism with a budget of EUR 6.7 million and a budget of EUR 15 million to support demonstration projects. More information can be obtained at www.swim-sm.eu

The EU is not directly involved in any UN-led project regarding water management in the Mediterranean. However, the EU closely cooperates with UN in the context of, among others, the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the Barcelona Convention.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010163/13
alla Commissione
Matteo Salvini (EFD)
(11 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Chiarimenti in merito alla sicurezza dei protocolli di telecomunicazione

Nella serata di giovedì 6 settembre, il *Guardian*, il *New York Times* e *ProPublica* hanno pubblicato una serie di articoli in cui si rivela che la National Security Agency (NSA), una delle più importanti agenzie di intelligence degli Stati Uniti, sarebbe in grado di leggere i dati criptati delle comunicazioni online. In pratica, la NSA e la sua agenzia omologa britannica GCHQ avrebbero avviato e adottato soluzioni per accedere ai sistemi che garantiscono la riservatezza delle comunicazioni su Internet attraverso la crittografia, ovvero il metodo che permette di rendere un messaggio non comprensibile o intelligibile a persone non autorizzate a leggerlo. Quindi la crittografia maschera un dato trasmesso online in modo che lo possano leggere solo il mittente e il ricevente e nessun altro.

L'NSA è riuscita a forzare buona parte delle soluzioni di crittografia realizzate per la salvaguardia dei sistemi bancari e del commercio globale, che proteggono dati sensibili come registri medici e segreti industriali e che automaticamente rendono sicure le email, le ricerche sul web, le chat e le chiamate telefoniche.

Questa notizia comprometterebbe la sicurezza delle comunicazioni tra gli Stati membri e l'Unione Europea.

I protocolli esistenti possono dirsi non più sicuri, poiché esiste una possibilità concreta di decodificazione delle informazioni che possono circolare tra le istituzioni.

Può la Commissione far sapere come intende affrontare questo problema che mina la segretezza delle informazioni tra gli Stati e se intende studiare un nuovo protocollo ad hoc che possa non essere decriptato a differenza di quelli odierni?

Risposta di Neelie Kroes a nome della Commissione
(6 novembre 2013)

La Commissione condivide le preoccupazioni espresse dall'onorevole parlamentare circa la possibilità di decriptare le comunicazioni fra gli Stati membri e l'Unione europea.

Come primo passo, è stato creato un gruppo transatlantico di alto livello composto da esperti di protezione dei dati e sicurezza dell'UE e degli Stati Uniti al fine di chiarire ulteriormente questa e altre questioni attinenti. La Commissione presenterà a breve una relazione sulle conclusioni del gruppo.

I servizi della Commissione stanno inoltre mettendo a punto ulteriori ricerche nel campo della cifratura avanzata nell'ambito di Orizzonte 2020, il programma quadro per la ricerca.

La Commissione ha adottato una proposta di regolamento sulla protezione dei dati con risvolti importanti su programmi quali PRISM e altre iniziative analoghe. La proposta precisa, ad esempio, che l'applicazione extraterritoriale di leggi e di altri strumenti legislativi di paesi terzi potrebbe essere contraria al diritto internazionale.

Al fine di aumentare la resilienza di internet, delle reti e dei sistemi informatici privati, la Commissione ha poi adottato una proposta di direttiva recante misure volte a garantire un livello comune elevato di sicurezza delle reti e dell'informazione nell'Unione ([1]).

La Commissione implementa i più moderni strumenti di protezione dei sistemi comunicativi e informatici della Commissione, comprese soluzioni ben collaudate, sviluppate e testate da servizi specializzati nella crittografia di informazioni UE riservate. Cooperando strettamente con gli organi preposti alla gestione della sicurezza informatica delle altre istituzioni dell'UE e degli Stati membri, tramite il CERT-EU, la Commissione ha inoltre elaborato un piano d'azione interno contro gli attacchi informatici, che prevede misure per l'individuazione e il blocco di tali attacchi, nonché per un costante miglioramento delle possibili difese.

([1]) COM(2013)48 def., 2013/0027 (COD) del 7.2.2013.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010163/13
to the Commission
Matteo Salvini (EFD)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Clarification regarding communication protocol security

Late on Thursday 6 September 2013, the *Guardian,* the *New York Times* and *ProPublica* published a series of articles revealing that the National Security Agency (NSA), one of the United States' most important intelligence agencies, is able to read encrypted data in online communications. It is alleged that the NSA and its UK counterpart, GCHQ, have in practice developed and implemented solutions for accessing systems that guarantee the confidentiality of Internet communications by means of encryption, the method used to make a message incomprehensible or unintelligible to anyone who is not authorised to read it. Therefore, encryption masks data transmitted online so that the sender and the recipient are the only ones who can read it.

The NSA has succeeded in cracking much of the encryption that safeguards banking systems and global commerce, protects sensitive data such as medical records and trade secrets, and automatically secures e-mails, Web searches, Internet chats and telephone calls.

This news threatens the security of the communications sent between Member States and the European Union.

The current protocols can no longer be considered secure, since there is a real possibility that any data circulating between the institutions could be decoded.

Can the Commission say how it intends to address this problem, which undermines the confidentiality of information shared between the States, and whether it plans to test a new ad hoc protocol that, unlike the ones currently used, cannot be decrypted?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

The Commission shares the Honourable Member concerns about the possibility of decrypting communications sent between Member States and the European Union.

As a first step, a high level transatlantic group of data protection and security experts from the EU and the US was created in order to further clarify this and related matters. The Commission will report soon on the findings of the group.

The Commission services are also proposing further research into advanced encryption under the framework Program for Research H2020.

The Commission adopted a Proposal for a data protection Regulation, which contains elements relevant for PRISM and similar programmes. For example, it clarifies that the extraterritorial application of third countries' laws and other legal instruments may be in breach of international law.

Furthermore, to enhance the resilience of the Internet and the private network and information systems, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive concerning measures to ensure a high common level of network and information security across the Union ([1]).

The Commission uses state of the art measures to protect the Commission's Communication and Information Systems, including well-proven products, developed and tested by specialised services to encrypt EU classified information. Furthermore, the Commission, in close cooperation with other EU institutions and Member States IT security management bodies through the CERT-EU, established an internal action plan against cyber-attacks, which includes measures aimed at detecting and stopping them and at continuously improving countermeasures.

([1]) COM(2013) 48 final, 2013/0027 (COD), 7.2.2013.

(Slovenska različica)

Vprašanje za pisni odgovor E-010164/13
za Komisijo
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)
(11. september 2013)

Zadeva: Prodaja večjih količin mazalnih olj in tekočin fizičnim osebam

Ogromno maziv (motorno olje, hidravlično olje, masti, olje za menjalnik, diferencialno olje idr.) se preko spleta in v trgovinah v neomejenih količinah neposredno prodaja fizičnim osebam. Pravne osebe, registrirane za servis motornih vozil, so že več let dolžne pristojnim inšpekcijskim službam predložiti dokumentacijo, iz katere je razvidno, da je bilo odpadno motorno olje ustrezno oddano pooblaščenim službam za uničenje oz. razgradnjo.

Drugače od pravnih oseb lahko danes fizične osebe preko spleta ali pri trgovcih na drobno državah članicah brez težav kupijo velike količine maziv, za katerimi se kasneje izgubi vsaka sled. Tako ni mogoče ugotoviti, ali je bilo uporabljeno motorno olje ustrezno uničeno oz. reciklirano. S tem se povečuje tveganje za onesnaževanje okolja, poleg tega je takšno pomanjkanje nadzora oz. količinske omejitve nakupa maziv za fizične osebe zlata jama za sivo ekonomijo na področju storitev servisiranja motornih vozil.

Veliko pravnih oseb kupuje maziva zunaj meja svoje države, okoljske dajatve pa so v državah članicah EU različno visoke. Poleg tega se okoljska dajatev plača v državi, kjer gre mazivo v prodajo in tako prodajalec (npr. v Nemčiji) zaračuna kupcu (npr. iz Slovenije) mazivo brez okoljske dajatve, saj mazivo ni šlo v končno porabo v državi prodajalca (tj. v Nemčiji). S tem, ko je mazivo na trgu cenejše za višino okoljske dajatve zopet nastaja nelojalna konkurenca.

Komisijo zato sprašujem:

1. Ali evropska zakonodaja predvideva inšpekcijski nadzor ali katerikoli avtorizacijski ukrep pri prodaji večjih količin maziv fizičnim osebam preko spletnih trgovin in trgovcev na drobno v državah članicah? Ali v primeru nakupa/prodaje večjih količin maziv fizičnim osebam predpisuje predložitev dokumentacije oz. dokazil o primernem uničenju in reciklaži odpadnega motornega olja?

2. Ali se v prizadevanjih EU za zajezitev sive ekonomije predvideva tudi ukrep omejitve prodaje velikih količin maziv fizičnim osebam in poenotenje višine okoljske dajatve na kilogram mazalnega olja in tekočin ter izboljšan nadzor nad pobiranjem okoljske dajatve v primeru nakupa maziv v drugi državi članici?

Odgovor g. Potočnika v imenu Komisije
(13. november 2013)

Odpadna olja urejajo določbe Direktive 2008/98/ES o odpadkih ([1]), zlasti člen 21, ki določa, da države članice sprejmejo potrebne ukrepe za zagotovitev, da se odpadna olja zbirajo ločeno, kadar je to tehnično izvedljivo, in da se z njimi ravna v skladu s hierarhijo ravnanja z odpadki. Zakonodaja EU državam članicam ne predpisuje načina izvrševanja te zahteve.

Za ekološke dajatve na maziva na ravni EU ne obstaja harmonizacija. Države članice zato svobodno oblikujejo fiskalno politiko za izdelke, ki se uporabljajo kot maziva, pod pogojem, da izdelki, ki izvirajo iz drugih držav članic, niso prekomerno obdavčeni v primerjavi s podobnimi domačimi izdelki. Komisija trenutno ne načrtuje harmonizacije davčne zakonodaje na tem področju. Po mnenju Komisije je uvedba sistema za nadzor nad gibanjem maziv trenutno neupravičena.

([1]) Direktiva 2008/98/ES Evropskega parlamenta in Sveta z dne 19. novembra 2008, UL L 312, 22.11.2008.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010164/13
to the Commission
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Large-scale selling of lubricating oils and liquid lubricants to natural persons

Many lubricants (engine oil, hydraulic oil, greases, gearbox oil, differential oil, etc.) are sold in unrestricted quantities online or in shops directly to natural persons. Legal persons registered to service motor vehicles have for several years been obliged to furnish documentary evidence to the appropriate inspectorate clearly showing that waste engine oil has been duly delivered to the agencies authorised to destroy or decompose it.

Unlike legal persons, natural persons can now easily buy large quantities of lubricants online or in retail stores in Member States; once that has happened, all trace of the lubricants is lost. It is consequently impossible to ascertain whether used engine oil has been properly destroyed or recycled. Leaving aside the increased risk of environmental pollution, the fact that the purchase of lubricants for natural persons is not subject to supervision or quantitative restrictions is creating a rich source of profit for the shadow economy in the vehicle servicing business.

Legal persons often buy lubricants outside their home countries, but eco-tax rates vary from one Member State to another. Furthermore, eco-tax is paid in the country where a lubricant goes on sale. That being the case, the price charged by a seller (for example in Germany) to a buyer from, say, Slovenia will exclude eco-tax, as the final consumption of the lubricant will not have taken place in the seller's country (in other words Germany). The fact that the market price is reduced by the amount of eco-tax gives rise, once again, to unfair competition.

1. Does European legislation provide for inspection of, or any form of authorisation arrangement for, mass sales of lubricants to natural persons through online shops or retail stores in Member States? When large quantities of lubricants are bought by, or sold to, natural persons, is there any requirement to produce documents or other evidence concerning the proper destruction or recycling of waste engine oil?

2. As the EU endeavours to curb the informal economy, will steps also be taken to restrict large-scale selling of lubricants to natural persons, standardise the eco-tax rate chargeable per kilogram of lubricating oil and liquid lubricant, and improve the oversight of eco-tax collection in cases where buyers purchase lubricants in Member States other than their home country?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(13 November 2013)

Waste oils are governed by the provisions of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste ([1]) and in particular by Article 21, which provides that Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that waste oils are collected separately, where this is technically feasible and treated in accordance with the waste hierarchy. EU legislation does not prescribe how Member States shall enforce this requirement.

There is no harmonisation of eco-taxes on lubricants at EU level. Member States are therefore free to design their fiscal policy for products used as lubricants provided that products originating from other Member States are not taxed in excess to similar domestic ones. At the current stage the Commission has no plans to harmonise the tax legislation in this area. The introduction of the control system for movements for lubricants seems currently unjustified to the Commission.

([1]) Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008, OJ L 312, 22.11.2008.

(Slovenska različica)

Vprašanje za pisni odgovor E-010165/13
za Komisijo
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)
(11. september 2013)

Zadeva: Podpora Komisije delavskim prevzemom podjetij v krizi

Evropski parlament je v svoji resoluciji o prispevku zadrug k izhodu iz krize, ki jo je sprejel 2. julija 2013, izpostavil, da so se zadruge v kriznih časih izkazale za odpornejše od številnih tradicionalnih podjetij. Da imajo zadruge in druga socialna podjetja pomembno vlogo v evropskem gospodarstvu, priznava tudi Evropska komisija v svojem sporočilu o spodbujanju zadrug v Evropi (COM(2004)0018).

V zadnjih letih je bilo zaradi prestrukturiranja podjetij v krizi ali brez naslednikov ustanovljenih več sto industrijskih in storitvenih zadružnih podjetij, kar je prispevalo k ohranitvi in ponovnem razvoju lokalnih gospodarskih dejavnosti in delovnih mest.

Tako v Sloveniji kot tudi v mnogih drugih državah članicah se soočamo s težavami pri prenosu podjetij v krizi na zaposlene zaradi zakonodajnih ovir in pomanjkanja ali oteženega pridobivanja finančnih sredstev delavcev za odkup podjetij.

Komisijo zato sprašujem:

1. Ali bo Komisija v večletnem finančnem okviru 2014–2020 opredelila finančne instrumente za spodbujanje delavskih odkupov podjetij?

2. Ali je v naslednjem večletnem finančnem okviru 2014–2020 načrtovana vzpostavitev programov za spodbujanje ustanavljanja zadrug, med njimi tudi finančnih zadrug, ki bi lahko nudile primerno finančno podporo v delavskih prevzemih podjetij v krizi?

3. Ali Komisija načrtuje spremembo zakonodajnega okvira za harmonizacijo ureditve delavskih prevzemov v državah članicah, s čimer bi odpravili administrativne ovire pri izvedbi odkupov podjetij v krizi?

Odgovor g. Tajanija v imenu Komisije
(14. november 2013)

1. Osnutek predloga o večletnem finančnem okviru za obdobje 2014–2020 ne vključuje posebnih instrumentov za spodbujanje delavskih odkupov podjetij. Vendar bo prihodnji program COSME zagotovil sredstva, ki jih bodo vsa mala in srednja podjetja lahko uporabila za financiranje odkupov. To velja tudi za odkupe podjetij s strani delavskih zadrug, med katerimi večina spada med mala in srednja podjetja (MSP).

2. Kar zadeva pravno obliko in cilje podjetja, so vsi programi EU oblikovani nevtralno, da imajo od njih lahko koristi vse vrste podjetij. Kot vsa druga MSP lahko tudi zadruge v celoti sodelujejo in izkoristijo vse programe v okviru Programa za konkurenčnost podjetij in MSP (COSME). Ni načrtov za vključitev dodatnih posebnih programov, ki bi zadrugam zagotavljali pomoč na splošno.

3. Komisija ima stalno delovno skupino, ki jo sestavljajo strokovnjaki iz držav članic in ki opozarja na najpomembnejša vprašanja na področju prenosov podjetij. Posamezne primere bo preučila, zlasti če skupina ugotovi, da pravni okvir za čeznacionalne odkupe podjetij povzroča upravne ovire. Pri prenosih znotraj države članice so zadevni nacionalni organi pristojni za poenostavitev postopkov na nacionalni ravni, pri čemer morajo spoštovati veljavno zakonodajo EU ([1]).

([1]) Glej zlasti Direktivo Sveta 2001/23/ES z dne 12. marca 2001 o približevanju zakonodaje držav članic v zvezi z ohranjanjem pravic delavcev v primeru prenosa podjetij, obratov ali delov podjetij ali obratov, UL L 82, 22.3.2001, str. 16.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010165/13
to the Commission
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Commission support for employee takeovers of companies in crisis

In its resolution on the contribution of cooperatives to overcoming the crisis, adopted on 2 July 2013, Parliament pointed out that many cooperatives had proved themselves to be even more resilient in times of crisis than many conventional enterprises. And the Commission, in its communication on the promotion of cooperative societies in Europe (COM(2004)0018), recognised that cooperatives and other social enterprises have an important role to play in the European economy.

In recent years, several hundred industrial and service cooperative enterprises have been established as a result of the restructuring of businesses in crisis or without successors, thereby saving and re-developing local economic activities and jobs.

In Slovenia, as in many other Member States, it is difficult to transfer businesses in crisis to their employees because of legislative obstacles and a lack of, or difficulty in obtaining, funding for employee buyouts.

In view of the above, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. Will the Commission include financial instruments to promote worker buyouts in the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework?

2. Are there plans to include programmes in the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework to promote the establishment of cooperatives, including financial cooperatives, which could provide appropriate financial support for worker buyouts of companies in crisis?

3. Is the Commission planning to amend the legislative framework for the harmonisation of employee takeovers in the Member States in order to eliminate administrative barriers to employees buying out companies in crisis?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(14 November 2013)

1. The draft proposal for a 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework programme does not include any specific instruments to promote worker buy-outs. However, the forthcoming COSME programme provides for funds that can be used by all Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to finance buy-outs. This also applies to buy-outs by workers' cooperatives the overwhelming majority of which are SMEs.

2. All EU programmes are drafted in a neutral way as far as the legal form and objectives of an enterprise are concerned, so that all types of enterprises can benefit. Cooperatives can — like all other SMEs — fully participate in and benefit from all programmes within the Competitiveness and SME Programme (COSME). There are no plans to include additional specific programmes aimed at providing assistance to cooperatives in general.

3. The Commission has an ongoing working group with experts from Member States to identify the most important issues in the area of transfers of businesses. It will consider the results of the exercise in particular if the group finds that the legal framework for cross-national buy-outs raises administratives barriers. For transfers that take place within a Member State it is the respective national authorities' competence to simplify the procedures at the national level with due respect to the applicable EC law ([1]).

([1]) See in particular Directive 2001/23/EC of 12 March 2001 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses, OJ L 82/16, 22.3.2001.

(Slovenska različica)

Vprašanje za pisni odgovor E-010166/13
za Komisijo
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)
(11. september 2013)

Zadeva: Avtobusni prevozniki

Pred časom so z mano stopili v stik avtobusni prevozniki in me seznanili s težavo, s katero se soočajo pri obračunu nacionalnih davkov za del prevožene poti pri prevozu potnikov v nekaterih državah EU.

Cestni prevozniki, ki prevažajo potnike v državah EU, se morejo najprej registrirati davčnim uradom držav, skozi katere nameravajo prevažati potnike, in za prevoze po njihovem ozemlju plačevati DDV po stopnji v skladu z nacionalno zakonodajo. V ta namen se je potrebno na davčnem uradu tuje države priglasiti ter pridobiti davčno številko, praktično so tako avtobusni prevozniki davčni zavezanci v vsaki posamezni državi EU, skozi katero peljejo potnike.

Težava nastane, ker ima vsaka država EU po svoje urejen sistem plačila davkov; in sicer nekatere države davek obračunavajo mesečno, nekatere trimesečno, polletno ali letno, nekatere ga obračunavajo vnaprej kot akontacijo za predvidene kilometre, ki jih bo v tisti državi prevozil, vsaka država ima svoj obrazec za prijavo davka, ponekod morajo avtobusni prevozniki sami urediti plačilo davka, ponekod pa preko posrednikov.

Slovenski avtobusni prevozniki se pri tem ne želijo izogniti plačevanja davka, temveč si želijo poenostavitve postopka, ki spremlja obračune davka za prevoženo pot v tuji državi.

Predvsem bi želeli, da bi obstajal enoten obrazec za prijavo davka za prevožene kilometre v EU, da bi časovno uskladili oddajo obrazca za prijavo davka (npr. letno) oziroma da bi za prijavo davka za prevožene kilometre v tujih državah skrbel Davčni urad Republike Slovenije, ki mu avtobusni prevoznik že po nacionalni zakonodaji dolguje DDV za opravljene prevoze po Sloveniji in tujini.

Komisijo sprašujem, ali pozna zgoraj opisano problematiko avtobusnih prevoznikov v EU in ali namerava ukrepati ob takšni diskriminaciji?

Odgovor g. Šemete v imenu Komisije
(21. oktober 2013)

Komisija se zaveda, da veljavni predpisi o DDV, ki se uporabljajo v sektorju prevoza potnikov, povzročajo težave. Te težave je izpostavila v svoji zeleni knjigi o prihodnosti DDV ([1]) (glej točko 5.1.2. in temo 3 delovnega dokumenta služb Komisije ([2])). V svojem sporočilu o prihodnosti DDV ([3]) (glej točko 5.2.1.) je oznanila svojo namero, da bo predlagala nevtralnejši in enostavnejši okvir DDV za dejavnosti prevoza potnikov. V ta namen je naročila zunanjo ekonomsko študijo (ki se bo izvajala od leta 2013 do leta 2014), da se opravi poglobljena analiza trenutne obravnave DDV pri storitvah prevoza potnikov. Cilj analize je ugotoviti s tem povezane probleme in njihov obseg ter opredeliti možne rešitve. V tej študiji bo preučeno vprašanje upravne obremenitve mednarodnih prevoznih podjetij, ki izhaja iz veljavnih pravil o kraju izvajanja storitev, in s tem povezanih obveznosti obračuna DDV.

Nadalje je treba omeniti tudi, da bo Komisija v kratkem predstavila predlog standardnega obračuna DDV v EU, da se standardizirajo informacije, ki jih je treba predložiti pri nacionalnem obračunu DDV. Poleg tega bo opravljen pregled, da se razširi področje uporabe mini enotne vstopne točke, ki podjetjem omogoča, da v svoji državi članici obračunajo in plačajo DDV, ki ga je treba plačati v drugi državi članici.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/consultations/tax/future_vat/com(2010)695_sl.pdf
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/consultations/tax/future_vat/sec(2010)1455_en.pdf
([3]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0851:FIN:SL:PDF

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010166/13
to the Commission
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Coach operators

I have recently been contacted by a number of coach operators who told me of the difficulties they face in paying national taxes for the part of a journey where they transport passengers in certain other Member States.

Coach operators which carry passengers in EU countries must first register with the tax office of the countries through which they intend to travel, and for journeys in those countries pay VAT at the rate determined in their national legislation. For this purpose, they have to register with the tax office of the foreign country and obtain a tax number, so in practice coach operators are taxable persons in every individual EU country through which they carry passengers.

Problems arise because each Member State has its own tax payment system. Some countries calculate tax on a monthly basis, some quarterly, others six-monthly or yearly. Some calculate it as an advance payment based on the distance expected to be driven in that country. Each country has its own form for declaring taxes. In some countries it is the coach operators themselves which have to make the payment, while elsewhere it is done through intermediaries.

Slovene coach operators are not seeking to avoid paying tax, but they do want to see a simplification of the procedure for calculating the tax to be paid in respect of the part of a journey undertaken abroad.

Above all they would like to see a standard form for declaring the tax on journeys in the EU and a standard tax declaration period (e.g. yearly). Alternatively, they would want the declaration of taxes on journeys undertaken in foreign countries to be dealt with by the Tax Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, to which, under national legislation, coach operators are already required to pay VAT on the transport of passengers in Slovenia and abroad.

Is the Commission aware of this problem with which coach operators in the EU have to contend, and does it intend to take action to address this discrimination?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(21 October 2013)

The Commission is aware that the current VAT rules applicable in the passenger transport sector cause difficulties and raised these in its Green Paper ([1]) on the future of VAT (see point 5.1.2 and topic 3 of the Commission staff working document ([2])). In its communication ([3]) on the future of VAT (see point 5.2.1), the Commission announced its intention to propose a more neutral and simpler VAT framework for passenger transport activities. To this end, the Commission launched an external economic study (running from 2013 to 2014) whose objective is to provide an in-deep analysis of the current VAT treatment of passenger transport services in view of identifying and quantifying the problems it raises and the solutions that could be envisaged. The issue of administrative burdens for international transport operators linked to the current rules on the place of supply and the related VAT declaration obligations will be examined in this study.

Moreover, it is also worth mentioning that the Commission will shortly make a proposal for an EU standard VAT return to standardise the information to be provided on national VAT returns. As well a review will be undertaken to extend the scope of the mini-One Stop Shop, which allows businesses to declare and pay VAT due in another Member State in their own Member State.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/consultations/tax/future_vat/com(2010)695_en.pdf
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/consultations/tax/future_vat/sec(2010)1455_en.pdf
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/taxation/vat/key_documents/communications/com_2011_851_en.pdf

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010167/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Poluição atmosférica e risco de cancro do pulmão

Considerando o seguinte:

— Segundo um estudo publicado recentemente na revista científica The Lancet Oncology, a exposição prolongada à contaminação de partículas aumenta o risco de cancro do pulmão, em particular o adenocarcinoma, que se desenvolve também nos não fumadores.

— A investigação, dirigida pelo Centro de Investigação da Sociedade Dinamarquesa do Cancro, avaliou o impacto da exposição, a longo prazo, aos óxidos de nitrogénio, bem como às partículas em suspensão de diâmetro inferior a 2,5 mícrones e a 10 mícrones, e analisou 17 estudos de 9 países europeus, abrangendo um total de 313 mil pessoas.

— Ao todo, 2 095 pessoas desenvolveram cancro do pulmão durante os 13 anos em que foram seguidas no âmbito desta investigação, e o estudo concluiu que por cada aumento de cinco microgramas por metro cúbico de contaminação de partículas de diâmetro inferior a 2,5 mícrones, o risco de cancro do pulmão sobe 18 por cento.

— Um dos investigadores, adiantou ainda que «a associação entre a contaminação por partículas do ar e o risco do cancro do pulmão persiste também em concentrações abaixo dos valores-limite da qualidade do ar na União Europeia em partículas de diâmetro inferior a 10 mícrones e a 2,5 mícrones».

Pergunto à Comissão:

Como avalia as conclusões deste estudo?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(24 de outubro de 2013)

Os resultados que o Senhor Deputado menciona provêm do projeto Escape (*European Study of Cohorts for Air Pollution Effects*) ([1]), financiado pela UE no âmbito do Sétimo Programa-Quadro de Investigação, Desenvolvimento Tecnológico e Atividades de Demonstração (7.° PQ, 2007-2013) e concluído em 2012. Alguns dos resultados foram publicados na revista *The Lancet Oncology* ([2]). Os resultados do projeto contribuíram para a análise, efetuada em 2013 pela Organização Mundial de Saúde (OMS), dos efeitos da poluição atmosférica na saúde ([3]), em apoio ao novo pacote de políticas da UE relativas ao ar, atualmente em fase de conclusão. A Comissão considera que a análise efetuada em 2013 pela OMS, que inclui os resultados do referido estudo, pode fornecer as bases para um exame aprofundado das orientações da OMS e das futuras normas da UE relativas à qualidade do ar.

([1]) www.escapeproject.eu
([2]) http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(13)70279-1/fulltext
([3]) http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/182432/e96762-final.pdf
O coordenador do Escape fez parte do painel responsável pela análise.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010167/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Air pollution and the risk of lung cancer

According to a study published recently in the scientific journal *The Lancet Oncology*, prolonged exposure to contamination by particles increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly adenocarcinoma, which also develops in non-smokers.

The research, led by the Danish Society for Cancer Research, evaluated the impact of long-term exposure to nitrogen oxides, as well as suspended particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 microns and 10 microns, and analysed 17 studies from nine EU countries, covering a total of 313 000 people.

Overall, 2 095 people developed lung cancer during the 13 years in which they were followed in this research, and the study concluded that for every increase of five micrograms per cubic metre of contamination with particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 microns, the risk of lung cancer rose by 18%.

One of the researchers also explained that there was still a link between air particle contamination and the risk of lung cancer at concentrations of particles with a diameter of less than 10 microns and 2.5 microns that were below the EU's air-quality limits.

What is the Commission's assessment of this study's conclusions?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(24 October 2013)

The results mentioned by the Honourable Member come from the EU-funded ESCAPE (European study of cohorts for air pollution effects) project. ([1]) The project was funded under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013) and ended in 2012. Some of the results were published in The Lancet Oncology. ([2]) The project results have fed into the 2013 review by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on air pollution health impacts ([3]) set up in support of the new EU air policy package, presently being finalised. The Commission is of the opinion that the 2013 WHO review, which includes the referred study results, may provide the foundation for an in-depth review of the WHO global guidelines as well as future EU air quality standards.

([1]) www.escapeproject.eu
([2]) http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(13)70279-1/fulltext
([3]) http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/182432/e96762-final.pdf
The coordinator of ESCAPE was a member of the review panel.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010168/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Possível tratamento para o autismo e a depressão

Considerando que:

— Em Portugal a depressão afeta um em cada cinco portugueses e pode ser responsável, anualmente, por mais de 1 200 mortes no país. As consequências económicas são enormes, estimando-se um custo anual de cerca de 118 milhões de euros na Europa.

— Um grupo de investigadores da Universidade do Minho (UMinho) descobriu um «possível» tratamento para doenças de alteração do comportamento, como o autismo ou a depressão, através de uma investigação com glucocorticoides, hormonas produzidas durante o stress.

— Segundo os cientistas, esta descoberta «pode ter implicações para várias doenças neurológicas em que há deficiências emocionais e sociais semelhantes e/ou estão ligadas a stress pré-natal, incluindo autismo, hiperatividade, depressão e esquizofrenia».

Pergunta-se à Comissão:

Tem conhecimento deste estudo?

Uma vez que um diagnóstico preciso, algo que ainda não existe para as doenças mentais, pode levar a um tratamento muito mais eficaz, de que forma pode a Comissão impulsionar e incentivar projetos como o acima referido?

Resposta dada porMáire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(25 de outubro de 2013)

A Comissão está consciente da sobrecarga que pressupõem as perturbações do humor na UE (113 mil milhões de euros em 2010) ([1]) e a recente descoberta da equipa da professora Ana João Rodrigues e dos seus colaboradores sobre o papel da dopamina como um modulador de défices afetivos e sociais em ratinhos expostos *in utero* a elevados níveis de hormonas do stress, os glucocorticóides (Gc) ([2]). Embora os investigadores tenham conseguido demonstrar que a dopamina podem normalizar as anomalias de comportamento social dos ratinhos expostos a níveis elevados de Gc, será necessário prosseguir a investigação sobre o papel do stress pré-natal e dos Gc no desenvolvimento de um comportamento emocional e social anormal nos seres humanos. Os Gc não são apenas responsáveis pelos efeitos negativos do stress mas são também reguladores essenciais do metabolismo.

Entre 2007 e 2012, o Sétimo Programa-Quadro de atividades em matéria de Investigação, Desenvolvimento Tecnológico e Demonstração (7.° PQ, 2007-2013) investiu um montante de 280 milhões de euros em investigação sobre doenças neuropsiquiátricas. Inclui investigação sobre os mecanismos subjacentes de doenças neuropsiquiátricas com o objetivo de desenvolver melhores diagnósticos e tratamentos para a população afetada. Este esforço específico no que diz respeito à investigação no domínio da saúde mental contribui diretamente para a execução do «Pacto Europeu para a Saúde Mental e o Bem-Estar» ([3]) ([4]). Foi igualmente lançada uma ação conjunta para a saúde mental no âmbito do programa de trabalho de 2012 do Programa de Saúde.

O programa Horizonte 2020, o próximo programa de financiamento da UE para a investigação e a inovação ([5]) (2014-2020), proporcionará novas oportunidades para apoiar esta área de investigação.

([1]) Gustavsson et al. (2011) Cost of disorders of the brain in Europe 2010. European Neuropsychopharmacology 21, 718-779.
([2]) Dopaminergic modulation of affective and social deficits induced by prenatal glucocorticoid exposure. Borges S, Coimbra B, Soares-Cunha C, Miguel Pêgo J, Sousa N, João Rodrigues A. Neuropsychopharmacology. 2013 Sep;38(10):2068-79. doi: 10.1038/npp.2013.108.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/docs/pact_en.pdf
([4]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0063+0+DOC+XML+V0//PT
([5]) COM(2011) 808 final, COM(2011) 811 final.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010168/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Possible treatment for autism and depression

Depression affects one in five people in Portugal and could be responsible for more than 1 200 deaths in the country every year. The economic consequences are enormous, with the estimated annual cost in the EU being around EUR 118 million.

A group of researchers at the University of Minho has discovered a possible treatment for diseases that affect behaviour, such as autism and depression, through research involving glucocorticoids, hormones that are produced during stress.

According to the scientists, this discovery could have implications for neurological disorders with similar emotional and social impairment and/or which are linked to prenatal stress, including autism, hyperactivity, depression and schizophrenia.

Is the Commission aware of this study?

As accurate diagnosis, which does not currently exist for mental illnesses, could lead to more effective treatment, how can the Commission drive and encourage projects like that mentioned above?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

The Commission is aware of the burden imposed by mood disorders in the EU (EUR 113 billion in 2010) ([1]) and of the recent findings by the team of Professor Ana João Rodrigues and her collaborators on the role of dopamine as a modulator of affective and social deficits in rats exposed in utero to high levels of stress hormones, glucocorticoids (GCs). ([2]) While the researchers were able to show that dopamine can normalise the abnormal social behaviour of rats exposed prenatally to high levels of GCs, further research will be needed on the role of prenatal stress and GCs in the development of abnormal emotional and social behaviour in humans. In particular, GCs are not only responsible for the negative effects of stress but are also essential regulators of the metabolism.

Between 2007 and 2012, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013) has invested EUR 280 million in research on neuropsychiatric diseases. This includes research on the underlying mechanisms of neuropsychiatric diseases with the aim of developing better diagnostics and treatments for the affected people. This specific effort with respect to research on mental health is directly implementing the 'European Pact for Mental Health and Well-Being' ([3])([4]). A Joint Action on mental health was also launched under the 2012 work programme of the Health Programme.

Horizon 2020, the next EU funding Programme for Research and Innovation ([5]) (2014-2020), will provide further opportunities to support this area of research.

([1]) Gustavsson et al. (2011) Cost of disorders of the brain in Europe 2010. European Neuropsychopharmacology 21, 718-779.
([2]) Dopaminergic modulation of affective and social deficits induced by prenatal glucocorticoid exposure. Borges S, Coimbra B, Soares-Cunha C, Miguel Pêgo J, Sousa N, João Rodrigues A. Neuropsychopharmacology. 2013 Sep;38(10):2068-79. doi: 10.1038/npp.2013.108.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/docs/pact_en.pdf
([4]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2009-0063+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN
([5]) COM(2011) 808 final, COM(2011) 811 final.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010169/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Doença de Crohn e colite ulcerosa — novo tratamento

Considerando que:

— Dois ensaios clínicos internacionais recentemente publicados na revista New England Journal of Medicine revelaram um novo tratamento contra a doença de Crohn e a colite ulcerosa, inflamações intestinais incapacitantes.

— Os ensaios clínicos foram realizados em 39 países e contaram com a participação de 3 000 pessoas com idades compreendidas entre os 18 e os 80 anos, das quais 1 900 sofriam da doença de Crohn e 1 100 de colite ulcerosa. Os doentes foram tratados durante um ano e os efeitos foram observados após seis semanas.

— Segundo o diretor do centro das doenças intestinais inflamatórias na Universidade da Califórnia, que conduziu o estudo sobre a doença de Crohn, os resultados são «muito animadores para os pacientes da doença de Crohn e de colite ulcerosa nos quais falham os tratamentos convencionais como os esteroides ou os supressores do sistema imunitário»

— O tratamento consiste na toma da vedolizumab, um anticorpo monoclonal humanizado experimental para o tratamento de adultos com colite ulcerosa e doença de Crohn, tendo a farmacêutica Takeda pedido já autorização às agências europeia e norte-americana que regulam o setor dos medicamentos, a EMA e a FDA, respetivamente, para a colocação da vedolizumab no mercado.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Como avalia os resultados desta investigação?

Resposta dada por Tonio Borg em nome da Comissão
(29 de outubro de 2013)

Em conformidade com a legislação do setor farmacêutico ([1]), a Agência Europeia de Medicamentos, nomeadamente o seu Comité dos Medicamentos para Uso Humano, efetua uma avaliação científica dos dados apresentados com o pedido de autorização de introdução no mercado da UE de um medicamento, através do procedimento centralizado. Já foram concedidas, a nível central, autorizações de introdução no mercado de vários medicamentos para o tratamento da doença de Crohn e da colite ulcerosa (substâncias ativas adalimumab, infliximab) e existem atualmente pedidos de autorização de introdução no mercado cuja avaliação está em curso. Os pormenores da avaliação científica ficarão disponíveis ao público, no sítio Web da agência, após a finalização do procedimento de autorização de introdução no mercado sob a forma de «Relatório Público Europeu de Avaliação» ([2]).

No âmbito da autorização de introdução no mercado de medicamentos, a Comissão não efetua uma avaliação individual com base em artigos científicos sobre medicamentos específicos. Por conseguinte, a Comissão não dispõe de uma avaliação dos resultados da investigação referida pelo Senhor Deputado.

([1]) Regulamento (CE) n.º 726/2004 que estabelece procedimentos comunitários de autorização e de fiscalização de medicamentos para uso humano e veterinário e que institui uma Agência Europeia de Medicamentos, JO L 136 de 30.4.2004, alterado, e Diretiva 2001/83/CE que estabelece um código comunitário relativo aos medicamentos para uso humano, JO L 311 de 28.11.2001, alterada.

([2]) http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/landing/epar_search.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001d124

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010169/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: New treatment for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis

Two international clinical trials recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* have revealed a new treatment for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, which are incapacitating inflammatory bowel conditions.

The clinical trials were conducted in 39 countries and involved 3 000 people between 18 and 80 years of age, 1 900 of whom suffered from Crohn's disease and 1 100 from ulcerative colitis. The patients were treated for one year and the effects were observed after six weeks.

According to the director of the Centre for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases at the University of California, which conducted the Crohn's disease study, 'the two trials showed highly encouraging results for patients suffering from moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis when conventional therapy such as steroids or immune suppressive drugs failed'.

The treatment consists of taking vedolizumab, an experimental humanised monoclonal antibody for treating adults with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. The pharmaceutical company Takeda is already requesting authorisation to bring vedolizumab to market from the EU and US agencies that regulate the drugs industry, the European Medicines Agency and the Food and Drug Administration respectively.

What is the Commission's assessment of the results of this research?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(29 October 2013)

In accordance with pharmaceutical legislation ([1]), a scientific assessment of data submitted with the application for an EU-wide marketing authorisation of a medicinal product via the centralised procedure is performed by the European Medicines Agency, particularly its Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use. Marketing authorisations for several medicinal products for treatment of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis have been already granted centrally (active substances adalimumab, infliximab) and there are marketing authorisation applications with the evaluation ongoing. Details of the scientific assessment will be available for the public after the finalisation of the marketing authorisation procedure on the website of the Agency as the 'European public assessment report' ([2]).

In the framework of the marketing authorisation of medicinal products, the Commission does not perform individual assessment of scientific articles on specific products. Therefore, the Commission does not have at its disposal an assessment of the results of the research mentioned by the Honourable Member.

([1]) Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 laying down Community procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Medicines Agency, OJ L 136, 30.4.2004, as amended, Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use, OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, as amended.

([2]) http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/landing/epar_search.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001d124

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010170/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Técnica contra a erosão na sequência dos incêndios florestais

Considerando que:

— Segundo dados da CE, Portugal é o país europeu mais afetado pelos incêndios florestais e — em comparação com os restantes países da bacia mediterrânica: Espanha, França, Itália e Grécia — é o único país em que a média da área ardida tem aumentado desde 1980;

— De acordo com o último relatório provisório sobre incêndios florestais do Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (ICNF), entre 1 de janeiro e 31 de agosto do corrente ano registaram-se 14 143 ocorrências de fogo, que resultaram em 94 155 hectares de área ardida;

— Na sequência de um incêndio, com a vegetação e a manta morta da superfície dos terrenos transformados em cinzas, o solo fica extremamente vulnerável à ação da erosão, resultando na perda de fertilidade e afetando a produtividade dos solos e a destruição de ecossistemas;

— Uma equipa de investigação da Universidade de Aveiro está a desenvolver uma técnica inovadora — o «mulching» — que consiste na distribuição pelos solos consumidos pelo fogo de uma camada de restos florestais triturados, cujo objetivo é reduzir drasticamente o nível de erosão dos solos florestais depois da ocorrência de um incêndio;

Pergunto à Comissão:

Tem conhecimento desta técnica?

Apesar de não existir uma política florestal europeia, considera que medidas como a descrita poderão vir a divulgadas e implementadas no âmbito de iniciativas europeias que visem a proteção das florestas?

Resposta dada por Janez Potočnik em nome da Comissão
(16 de outubro de 2013)

A Comissão está consciente das técnicas existentes para reduzir a erosão do solo após incêndios florestais. A Comissão, no âmbito do Sistema Europeu de Informação sobre Incêndios Florestais (EFFIS ([1])), implementou um módulo de «erosão do solo pós-incêndio», que avalia as potencialidades das perdas de solo na sequência de incêndios florestais, sublinhando os domínios em que tal possa constituir um sério problema após a época de incêndios.

A Comissão presta apoio aos Estados-Membros para as medidas de recuperação no âmbito da política de Desenvolvimento Rural e apoia projetos de investigação neste domínio, tal como o projeto Forrisk ([2]).

([1]) O EFFIS é um repositório e uma plataforma de intercâmbio de experiências entre países. A Comissão organiza reuniões com os representantes nacionais dos serviços competentes de combate aos incêndios e de proteção civil antes e após as campanhas de incêndio, com o objetivo de reforçar a cooperação já estabelecida e proceder ao intercâmbio de informações sobre as experiências durante as operações de prevenção e de combate contra os incêndios.

([2]) http://forrisk.efiatlantic.efi.int

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010170/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Techniques to tackle erosion following forest fires

According to EU figures, Portugal is the EU country worst affected by forest fires and, in comparison with the other Mediterranean countries — Spain, France, Italy and Greece — is the only country in which the average area of burnt forest has gone up since 1980.

According to the latest provisional report on forest fires by the Nature and Forest Conservation Institute, between 1 January and 31 August 2013 there were 14 143 fires, resulting in 94 155 hectares being burnt.

Following a fire, with the vegetation and leaf cover on the surface of the land turned to ashes, the soil becomes extremely vulnerable to erosion, resulting in a loss of fertility, productivity being affected and ecosystems destroyed.

A team of researchers at the University of Aveiro is developing an innovative mulching technique, which consists of spreading a layer of crushed forest waste over the scorched ground in order drastically to reduce the level of erosion of the forest soil after a fire.

Is the Commission aware of this technique?

Although there is no European forestry policy, does it believe that measures such as that above could be disseminated and implemented under EU initiatives to protect forests?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(16 October 2013)

The Commission is aware of existing techniques to reduce soil losses after forest fires. The Commission, within the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS ([1])), has implemented a 'Post-fire soil erosion' module, which assesses the potential soil losses after forest fires, highlighting areas where this can be a serious problem after the fire season.

The Commission provides support to Member States for restoration measures under Rural Development policy and supports research projects in this field, such as the FORRISK project ([2]).

([1]) EFFIS is a repository and a platform for exchanges of experiences among countries. The Commission organises meetings with the national representatives from forest fire and civil protection services before and after the fire campaigns in order to enhance the cooperation already established and to exchange information on the experiences during the fire protection and fire fighting operations.

([2]) http://forrisk.efiatlantic.efi.int.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010171/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Tratamento precoce de cancro de alto risco

Considerando que:

— Anualmente aparecem quatro a cinco novos casos de mieloma sintomático por cada 100 000 pessoas.

— Um grupo de investigadores espanhóis descobriu um tratamento precoce do mieloma de alto risco assintomático, que origina um cancro designado mieloma múltiplo ou sintomático, conseguindo retardar a progressão do tumor e aumentar a sobrevivência dos doentes.

— O ensaio clínico, no qual participaram 21 hospitais espanhóis e três portugueses, envolveu 120 pacientes, metade dos quais não recebeu terapia até ao aparecimento dos sintomas, enquanto os restantes foram tratados com os medicamentos lenalidomida e dexametasona.

— Segundo os investigadores, os resultados são satisfatórios porque se demonstrou que o tratamento precoce adia o aparecimento dos sintomas da doença. O risco de progressão do mieloma para sintomático foi 5,6 vezes mais baixo nos que receberam terapia.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Tem conhecimento deste estudo?

Como avalia os resultados apresentados?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(11 de novembro de 2013)

A Comissão tem conhecimento do estudo clínico realizado por um grupo de hospitais espanhóis, referido pelo Senhor Deputado ([1]).

Os resultados mostram que o tratamento precoce com lenalidomida e dexametasona, seguido de uma terapia de manutenção com lenalidomida, em doentes assintomáticos com um mieloma múltiplo de alto risco, retarda de forma significativa, a progressão da doença sintomática e resultou num aumento da taxa global de sobrevivência.

Por uma questão de princípio, a Comissão não avalia projetos de investigação individuais que não estão diretamente relacionados com as suas atividades de financiamento.

A proposta da Comissão relativa ao Horizonte 2020 — Programa-quadro de Investigação e Inovação (2014-2020) ([2]), através da «saúde, alterações demográficas e Bem-Estar» desafio societal como, entre outros, irá proporcionar oportunidades de investigação sobre doenças malignas do sangue, como o mieloma múltiplo.

([1]) Mateos et al. (2013) N Engl J Med 369:438-47.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010171/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Early treatment of high-risk cancer

Every year, there are between four and five new cases of symptomatic myeloma for every 100 000 people.

A group of Spanish researchers has discovered a form of early treatment for high-risk asymptomatic myeloma, which causes cancer known as multiple or symptomatic myeloma, successfully delaying tumour progression and improving patient survival.

The clinical trial took place at 21 Spanish and 3 Portuguese hospitals and involved 120 patients, half of whom received no therapy until symptoms appeared, while the remainder were treated with the drugs lenalidomide and dexamethasone.

According to the researchers, the results were satisfactory because they demonstrated that onset of the disease's symptoms could be delayed with early treatment. The risk of progressing to symptomatic myeloma was 5.6 times lower in the group that received therapy.

Is the Commission aware of this study?

What is its assessment of the results?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(11 November 2013)

The Commission is aware of this clinical study, conducted by a group of Spanish hospitals, referred to by the Honourable Member ([1]).

The results show that early treatment with lenalidomide and dexamethasone, followed by maintenance therapy with lenalidomide, in asymptomatic patients with high-risk smouldering multiple myeloma (SMM), significantly delayed the time to progression to symptomatic disease and resulted in an overall survival benefit.

As a matter of policy, the Commission does not judge individual research projects which do not directly relate to its funding activities.

The Commission's proposal for Horizon 2020 — The framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) ([2]) through the 'Health, demographic change and well-being' societal challenge, amongst others, will offer opportunities to address research on haematological malignancies, such as multiple myeloma.

([1]) Mateos et al. (2013) N Engl J Med 369:438-47.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-documents

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010172/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Venda de produtos fora do prazo de validade

Na Grécia, entrou recentemente em vigor uma lei, que autoriza as lojas e supermercados gregos a venderem produtos fora do prazo desde que estes se encontrem em prateleiras separadas e a um preço mais reduzido.

Em declarações recentes, o secretário-geral do Ministério do Desenvolvimento refere que a medida foi mal interpretada e que a data-referência para estas regras é a de venda ao público e não a de validade, mas a Organização Grega de Segurança Alimentar alertou que esta medida pode fazer com que empresários «sem escrúpulos» coloquem no mercado «produtos alimentícios de qualidade duvidosa».

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Que interpretação faz da nova lei recentemente promulgada?

De que forma pode a UE assegurar que a segurança alimentar dos cidadãos europeus não será posta em causa e que os mecanismos de controlo de qualidade destes produtos não serão violados?

Resposta dada por Tonio Borg em nome da Comissão
(12 de novembro de 2013)

A Comissão remete o Senhor Deputado para a resposta dada à pergunta escrita E-009999/2013 ([1]).

Os Estados-Membros são responsáveis pela fiscalização do cumprimento da legislação alimentar da UE ([2]) e por verificar que os requisitos aplicáveis são cumpridos pelos operadores das empresas. Devem ser realizados regularmente controlos oficiais e devem ser tomadas medidas adequadas para eliminar os riscos e garantir o respeito da legislação alimentar da UE. Cabe igualmente aos Estados-Membros estabelecer as regras relativas às medidas e sanções aplicáveis às infrações à legislação alimentar.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html

([2]) Regulamento (CE) n.° 178/2002 do Parlamento Europeu e do Conselho, de 28 de janeiro de 2002, que determina os princípios e normas gerais da legislação alimentar, cria a Autoridade Europeia para a Segurança dos Alimentos e estabelece procedimentos em matéria de segurança dos géneros alimentícios (JO L 31 de 1.2.2002, p. 1).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010172/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Sale of out-of-date products

A law recently entered into force in Greece authorising Greek shops and supermarkets to sell products after their expiry date, as long as they are placed on separate shelves and sold at a discounted price.

The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Development recently stated that the measure had been misunderstood and that the reference date for these rules was the sell-by date and not the expiry date. However, the Greek Food Safety Authority has warned that this measure could enable unscrupulous businesses to place food products of dubious quality on to the market.

What is the Commission's view of the new law?

How can the EU ensure that the food safety of European citizens is not put at risk and that the quality control mechanisms for these products are not violated?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(12 November 2013)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to tis answer to Written Question E-009999-2013 ([1]).

Member States are responsible for the enforcement of EU food law ([2]) and verify that the relevant requirements thereof are fulfilled by business operators. Official controls must be carried out regularly, and appropriate measures must be taken to eliminate risk and ensure enforcement of EU food law. Member States shall also lay down the rules on measures and penalties applicable to infringements of food law.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html

([2]) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p.1).

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010173/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Vazio legislativo em matéria de imigração e refugiados na UE

O Presidente do Parlamento Europeu, Martin Schulz, declarou recentemente existir um «vazio legislativo na Europa» no que diz respeito a questões relacionadas com a imigração, referindo como exemplo a situação dos milhares de refugiados africanos que têm acorrido à ilha de Lampedusa, no sul de Itália.

Acrescentou ainda que «uma lei para a imigração na Europa pode ser considerada uma utopia», salientando, no entanto, a necessidade de averiguar as razões que estão por trás do fenómeno dos refugiados.

1. Pode a Comissão fazer o atual ponto de situação do número de refugiados em território europeu?

2. Tem a Comissão vindo a desenvolver algum pacote de medidas no sentido de encontrar soluções que envolvam e possam contar com a solidariedade de todos os Estados-Membros?

Resposta dada por Cecilia Malmström em nome da Comissão
(19 de novembro de 2013)

Não é possível fornecer o número exato de refugiados que se encontram atualmente na UE. O Eurostat publica dados com os números de pedidos de asilo, o número das pessoas a quem é concedida a proteção internacional (refugiados e outros estatutos) e quantos são reinstalados a partir de países terceiros. Mas não existem registos centralizados sobre as pessoas acima mencionadas que tenham saído da UE ou falecido.

Em junho de 2013 foi adotado um pacote de leis relativas ao asilo pelo que não existe qualquer vazio legislativo nessa matéria na UE. Para além desses instrumentos jurídicos, o Gabinete Europeu de Apoio ao Asilo, criado em 2011, presta apoio prático aos Estados-Membros. As medidas de solidariedade incluem o financiamento, através do Fundo Europeu para os Refugiados e do futuro Fundo para o asilo e a migração (2014-2020).

As medidas da UE em matéria de imigração legal abrangem as condições de entrada e de residência para os nacionais de países terceiros. Desde 2003 foi adotado um quadro da UE de seis diretivas para diferentes categorias de imigrantes, tais como os residentes de longa duração, os candidatos ao reagrupamento familiar, os trabalhadores altamente qualificados, os estudantes e os investigadores. Até ao final de 2013, os Estados-Membros devem ter transposto a Diretiva «Autorização única», destinada a simplificar os procedimentos e a criar um conjunto de direitos para os imigrantes que residem legalmente num Estado-Membro. Estão a ser debatidas com o Parlamento Europeu e o Conselho três propostas de diretivas relativas aos trabalhadores transferidos temporariamente pela empresa, ao trabalho sazonal e à investigação, aos estudos, intercâmbio de estudantes, formação não remunerada e voluntariado e aos intercâmbios «au pair».

A Comissão continuará a velar pela correta transposição e a aplicação efetiva da referida legislação, pelos Estados-Membros. A reflexão em curso entre a Comissão, o PE, o Conselho e as partes interessadas na futura agenda da UE no domínio dos assuntos internos integra um maior desenvolvimento da ação da UE neste domínio.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010173/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Legal vacuum with regard to immigration and refugees in the EU

The President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, recently stated that there was a legal vacuum in Europe when it came to immigration issues, giving the example of the thousands of African refugees on the southern Italian island of Lampedusa.

He added that a law for immigration in Europe could be considered utopian, but stressed that it was necessary to understand the reasons behind the refugee phenomenon.

1. Can the Commission confirm exactly how many refugees are currently in the EU?

2. Has the Commission been developing a package of measures to find solutions that involve all Member States and will receive their support?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(19 November 2013)

It is not possible to provide the exact number of refugees currently within the EU. Eurostat publishes data with numbers of asylum applications and on how many people are granted international protection (refugee and other statuses), and how many are resettled from third countries. But records are not maintained centrally on such people who have left the EU or died.

A package of laws on asylum was adopted in June 2013; there is therefore no legal vacuum in the EU. In addition to such legal instruments, the European Asylum Support Office, set up in 2011, provides practical support to Member States. Solidarity measures include funding through the European Refugee Fund and the future Asylum and Migration Fund (2014-20).

EU measures on legal immigration cover the conditions of entry and residence for third-country nationals. An EU framework of six directives has been adopted since 2003 for different categories of immigrants, such as long-term residents, candidates for family reunification, highly-qualified workers, students and researchers. By the end of 2013, Member States should have implemented the ‘Single Permit’ directive, simplifying procedures and creating a set of rights for immigrants legally residing in a Member State. Three proposed directives are being discussed with the EP and Council: on intra-corporate transfers, on seasonal employment and on research, studies, pupil exchange, training, voluntary service and au-pairing.

The Commission will remain vigilant as to the proper transposition and effective application by Member States of this legislation. Further development of EU action in this field is part of the reflection underway between the Commission, EP, Council and stakeholders on the future EU home affairs agenda.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010174/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Vacina contra a malária

Considerando que:

— A malária é uma doença que infeta mais de 200 milhões de pessoas e mata cerca de um milhão por ano.

— Um grupo de investigadores da empresa norte-americana Sanaria anunciou recentemente progressos para alcançar uma vacina eficaz contra a malária.

— A nova vacina, conhecida como PfSPZ, só pode ser administrada por via intravenosa, o que a difere das atuais, que são injetadas por via intramuscular ou intradermal, ou são administradas pelas vias respiratórias, e abre caminho à prevenção da malária se for aplicada em larga escala.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Tem acompanhado esta investigação?

Poderá esta vacina, cuja aplicação se faz por via intravenosa, ser usada de forma generalizada entre as populações mais necessitadas?

Resposta dada por Máire Geoghegan-Quinn em nome da Comissão
(25 de outubro de 2013)

A Comissão tem conhecimento da nova vacina potencial contra a malária, a *PfSPZ*. Esta possível vacina é composta por esporozoítos atenuados, asséticos, purificados e criopreservados do parasita *Plasmodium falciparum*. A Comissão tem igualmente conhecimento de que, num primeiro ensaio clínico de investigação em seres humanos, em que a vacina foi administrada por via intravenosa a 40 adultos, se demonstrou que a mesma é segura e bem tolerada e que apenas pode ser administrada por essa via. Com uma contribuição financeira de cerca de 800 000 euros da Parceria entre a Europa e os Países em Desenvolvimento para a Realização de Ensaios Clínicos (EDCTP), está prevista a realização de um ensaio clínico desta vacina potencial na África subsariana. ([1])

É, no entanto, ainda necessário realizar mais ensaios clínicos e em maior escala em seres humanos, a fim de (1) determinar o grau e a duração da proteção contra estirpes heterólogas do parasita, (2) estabelecer correlatos de proteção imunológica e (3) otimizar a administração intravenosa da vacina. Por conseguinte, é ainda demasiado cedo para avaliar se esta vacina intravenosa pode ser administrada sistematicamente às populações mais necessitadas, como as crianças das zonas rurais da África subsariana.

A UE apoia significativamente a investigação destinada a melhorar a prevenção da malária através de esforços específicos em matéria de investigação sobre vacinas. Ao longo da última década, através do sexto e do sétimo programas-quadro de atividades de investigação, desenvolvimento tecnológico e demonstração (6.°PQ, 2002-2006; 7.° PQ, 2007-2013), foram atribuídos mais de 45 milhões de euros a 16 projetos de investigação pré-clínica no domínio das vacinas contra a malária. Além disso, a EDCTP está a apoiar quatro outros projetos de potenciais vacinas contra a malária na África subsariana, para cujos ensaios destinou mais de 13 milhões de euros.

([1]) http://www.edctp.org/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010174/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(11 September 2013)

Subject: Malaria vaccine

More than 200 million people contract malaria and around 1 million die from it every year.

A team of researchers at the US company Sanaria recently announced that they had made progress towards producing an effective vaccine for malaria.

The new vaccine, known as PfSPZ, can only be administered intravenously — unlike other vaccines, which are administered via intramuscular or intradermal injection or are inhaled — and paves the way for preventing malaria, if applied on a large scale.

Is the Commission aware of this research?

Could this intravenous vaccine be administered routinely to those populations most in need?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

The Commission is aware of the new malaria vaccine candidate PfSPZ. This vaccine candidate is composed of attenuated, aseptic, purified, cryopreserved sporozoites from the parasite 'Plasmodium falciparum'. The Commission is also aware of the fact that a first investigational clinical trial in humans has demonstrated that it is safe and well-tolerated when administered intravenously to 40 adults, and that it can only be administered intravenously. A clinical trial on this vaccine candidate is planned in sub-Saharan Africa with a financial contribution of nearly EUR 800 000 from the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) ([1]).

Additional and larger-scale clinical trials in humans are still needed, in order to: (1) determine the degree and duration of protection against heterologous strains of the parasite; (2) establish immune correlates of protection; and (3) optimize approaches to deliver intravenous vaccine administration. Therefore, it is too early to assess whether this intravenous vaccine could be administered routinely to those populations most in need, such as the children in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

The EU supports significantly research to improve the prevention of malaria with specific efforts in vaccine research. Over the course of the last decade, through the Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP6, 2002-2006 — FP7, 2007-2013), more than EUR 45 million has been granted to 16 malaria preclinical vaccine research projects. In addition, the EDCTP is supporting 4 additional malaria vaccine candidates in sub-Saharan Africa dedicating more than EUR 13 million to these trials.

([1]) http://www.edctp.org/

(Wersja polska)

Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej P-010175/13
do Komisji
Paweł Zalewski (PPE)
(12 września 2013 r.)

Przedmiot: Pomoc dla białoruskich organizacji pozarządowych

Jak powszechnie wiadomo, na Białorusi występuje poważny deficyt zasad demokratycznych. Inicjatywy społeczeństwa obywatelskiego w tym kraju rozpaczliwie potrzebują wsparcia politycznego i finansowego ze źródeł zewnętrznych. UE opracowała szereg narzędzi i programów w celu niesienia mieszkańcom krajów rządzonych przez podobne reżimy pomocy polegającej na budowie struktur społeczeństwa obywatelskiego i podtrzymywaniu ich działalności. Niedawno kilka białoruskich organizacji pozarządowych zaalarmowało nas, że odmówiono im finansowania unijnego specjalnie przeznaczonego dla tamtejszych organizacji, ponieważ organizacje te są oficjalnie zarejestrowane nie na Białorusi, lecz w innych krajach (w większości przypadków w państwach członkowskich UE). Z oczywistych powodów podmioty takie jak organizacje pozarządowe, które nie popierają reżimu prezydenta Aleksandra Łukaszenki, nie mogą swobodnie rozwijać swojej działalności, jeśli ich siedzibą jest Białoruś lub jeśli są w tym kraju zarejestrowane. Wydaje się zatem naturalne, że polityka UE powinna uwzględniać ten fakt, a oficjalna rejestracja organizacji pozarządowej na Białorusi nie powinna być warunkiem kwalifikowania się do otrzymania pomocy w ramach systemów unijnych, które mają na celu pomoc obywatelom białoruskim, a nie reżimowi. Tymczasem w 2013 r., po raz pierwszy od 2003 r., w przypadku białoruskich projektów, które ubiegały się o finansowanie z Europejskiego Instrumentu na rzecz Wspierania Demokracji i Praw Człowieka oraz programu tematycznego „Podmioty niepaństwowe i władze lokalne w procesie rozwoju", przynajmniej jeden współwnioskodawca musiał być zarejestrowany w administracji białoruskiego reżimu.

Czy Komisja może uzasadnić powyższe kryteria, uwzględniając wyjątkową specyfikę tego kraju i jego deficyt praworządności? Dlaczego UE nie zezwala organizacjom niezarejestrowanym na Białorusi na korzystanie ze wspomnianych funduszy?

Jakie przewidziano w 2013 r. instrumenty i jakie sumy na rzecz wsparcia białoruskich organizacji społeczeństwa obywatelskiego, które nie są zarejestrowane na Białorusi lub które nie mogą oficjalnie współpracować z innymi (zarejestrowanymi) białoruskimi organizacjami pozarządowymi?

Ponadto, jakie ogólne podejście przyjęła Komisja w kwestii wsparcia społeczeństwa obywatelskiego w reżimach autorytarnych?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez komisarza Štefana Fülego w imieniu Komisji
(8 października 2013 r.)

Komisja jest świadoma niezwykłych trudności, w obliczu których stoi społeczeństwo obywatelskie na Białorusi, i znacząco zwiększyła swoje wsparcie po kryzysie, do jakiego doszło po wyborach w 2010 r., korzystając przy tym z wszelkich dostępnych instrumentów. Wśród nich można wymienić m.in.: Europejski Instrument na rzecz Wspierania Demokracji i Praw Człowieka (EIDHR), instrument na rzecz podmiotów niepaństwowych i władz lokalnych (NSA/LA), Europejski Instrument Sąsiedztwa i Partnerstwa oraz Instrument na rzecz Stabilności.

Nie nastąpiła żadna zmiana, jeżeli chodzi o stosowanie kryteriów dotyczących organizacji niezarejestrowanych na Białorusi. Tak jak w poprzednich cyklach, zaproszenia do składania wniosków z 2013 r. zawierały wymóg, by wnioskodawca lub jeden z partnerów był zarejestrowany w tym państwie. Ma to zapewnić większe odziaływanie środków UE na ludność miejscową.

Organizacje niezarejestrowane na Białorusi zostały jednak celowo uwzględnione w projektach finansowanych z EIDHR i NSA/LA, np. jako stowarzyszeni partnerzy i beneficjenci dotacji w systemie kaskadowym (do kwoty 60 000 EUR na osobę trzecią).

W 2013 r. środki przydzielone w ramach EIDHR i NSA/LA przekraczają 5 mln EUR. Ponadto projekt w ramach Instrumentu na rzecz Stabilności (4 mln EUR, 2013-2015) zapewnia dodatkową elastyczność i możliwość dotarcia do organizacji niezarejestrowanych na Białorusi, szczególnie jeżeli chodzi o wsparcie dla ofiar represji.

Ponadto Komisja wprowadziła w życie kilka ułatwień dotyczących opodatkowania, poziomów współfinansowania, systemu przekazywania środków za pośrednictwem organizacji lub instytucji pełniącej rolę operatora (*re-granting*), przekazywania informacji poufnych itp., aby ułatwić pracę organizacji pozarządowych w tym jakże restrykcyjnym środowisku.

Ogólniej rzecz biorąc, działania na rzecz poprawy warunków rozwoju społeczeństwa obywatelskiego są dla UE kwestią priorytetową. Jeżeli kraje nie wywiązują się z przyjętych na siebie zobowiązań do przestrzegania praw człowieka, UE może ograniczyć współpracę z organami krajowymi i zwiększyć wsparcie dla ludności miejscowej poprzez organizacje społeczeństwa obywatelskiego.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010175/13
to the Commission
Paweł Zalewski (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Assistance for Belarusian NGOs

It is common knowledge that Belarus suffers from a severe lack of democratic principles. The civil society initiatives in this country are in desperate need of political and financial support from external sources. The EU has developed a range of tools and programmes to assist people in countries governed by such regimes to build up their civil society structures and maintain their activities. Recently, we have been alerted by a number of Belarusian NGOs that they were refused EU funding specifically designed for such organisations because they were officially registered not in their home country but in other countries (in most cases in EU Member States). For obvious reasons, organisations such as NGOs that are not supportive of President Alexander Lukashenko's regime cannot freely develop their activities while being headquartered or registered in their home country. Thus, it only seems right that EU policy should take account of this fact and should not make official registration in Belarus a precondition for eligibility for EU assistance schemes that are designed to help the citizens of Belarus, not the regime. However, in 2013, for the first time since 2003, in order to be eligible for funding from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights for Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development, projects had to include at least one co-applicant registered with the Belarusian regime.

Taking into consideration the extraordinary specific circumstances of this country and its deficiency in the rule of law, can the Commission explain the rationale behind such criteria? Why does the EU exclude organisations that are not registered in Belarus from accessing the funds?

What instruments and what sums are to be granted in 2013 to support Belarusian civil society organisations which are not registered in Belarus or which are unable to officially partner with other (registered) Belarusian NGOs?

Moreover, what general approach has the Commission taken on the issue of support for civil societies under authoritarian regimes?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(8 October 2013)

The Commission is well aware of the extremely difficult situation facing civil society in Belarus, and significantly intensified its support after the 2010 post-electoral crisis using all the available instruments. This includes the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities Instrument (NSA&LA), the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), and the Instrument for Stability.

There has not been any change in policy regarding the criteria for non-registered organisations. As in previous rounds, 2013 calls for proposals require that either the applicant or one of the partners is established in the country. This is in order to ensure that EU funds have a higher impact on the local population.

Non-registered organisations in Belarus have nonetheless deliberately been included in EIDHR and NSA&LA projects, e.g. as associated partners and sub-grantees (for up to EUR 60 000 per third party).

In 2013 the funding allocated under EIDHR and NSA&LA exceeds EUR 5 million. In addition, the Instrument for Stability project (EUR 4 million, 2013-2015) offers additional flexibility and reach-out to non-registered organisations, notably for support to victims of repression.

Furthermore, the Commission has put in place a number of facilitating measures on taxation, co-financing rates, re-granting, confidential communications, etc. to assist the work of the NGOs [1] in this restrictive environment.

More generally, the EU prioritises the promotion of an enabling environment for civil society. When countries falter in their commitment to human rights, the EU can decrease cooperation with national authorities and increase support to local populations through civil society.

[1] Non-governmental organisations.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord P-010176/13
aan de Commissie
Kartika Tamara Liotard (GUE/NGL)
(12 september 2013)

Betreft: Overschrijding Acute Referentie Dosis door landbouwgif op groente en fruit

De ngo's Milieudefensie en Foodwatch hebben maandag 9 september in Nederland een onderzoek gepubliceerd, waaruit blijkt dat op groente en fruit in de Europese voedselketen hoeveelheden landbouwgif achterblijven die zorgen voor een overschrijding van de Acute Referentie Dosis (ARfD) bij zowel kwetsbare groepen als bij de gehele populatie.

1. Erkent de Commissie dat er bij verschillende bestrijdingsmiddelen een Maximum Residu Limiet (MRL) is vastgesteld, dat kan zorgen voor een overschrijding van de Acute Referentie Dosis bij bepaalde bevolkingsgroepen (in dit geval jonge kinderen), zoals genoemd in tabel 3 van het onderzoek „Wettelijke normen voor gifresten op groente en fruit onvoldoende" (2013).

2. Zo ja, kan en gaat de Commissie op korte termijn actie ondernemen, door bijvoorbeeld bestaande normen te herevalueren en te komen tot veiligheidsnormen die overschrijding van de ARfD voor alle bevolkingsgroepen uitsluiten?

3. Indien de Commissie zich niet kan vinden in de conclusies van het onderzoek, sluit zij dan uit dat er Europese MRL-normen bestaan die in gevallen kunnen zorgen voor een overschrijding van de ARfD?

4. Artikel 1 van verordening (EG) nr.1107/2009 stelt dat bestrijdingsmiddelen die op de markt komen niet schadelijk mogen zijn voor de gezondheid van mensen en dieren of het milieu. De ARfD van bepaalde bestrijdingsmiddelen wordt overschreden, terwijl binnen de wettelijke normen geopereerd wordt. In hoeverre zijn de wettelijke veiligheidsnormen in strijd met Artikel 1 van verordening (EG) nr. 1107/2009?

5. Het genoemde onderzoek verwijst tevens naar cumulatieve risico's bij consumptie van verschillende soorten fruit en groente en daarmee consumptie van verschillende soorten landbouwgif. In hoeverre is onderzoek gedaan naar de gezondheidsrisico's bij consumptie van combinaties van toegelaten bestrijdingsmiddelen? Welke onderzoeken zijn specifiek gedaan naar de cumulatieve gezondheidseffecten van verschillende soorten toegelaten landbouwgif? Is onderzoek gedaan op basis van de verschillende consumptiepatronen in de verschillende lidstaten?

Antwoord van de heer Borg namens de Commissie
(10 oktober 2013)

De Europese Commissie is momenteel bezig met de systematische beoordeling van alle bestaande maximumresidugehalten krachtens artikel 12 van Verordening (EG) nr. 396/2005 ([1]), een procedure die met hoge prioriteit wordt uitgevoerd. Maximumresidugehalten (MRL's) zijn de maximale wettelijk toegestane gehalten van een concentratie aan residuen van bestrijdingsmiddelen in en op levensmiddelen of diervoeders op basis van goede landbouwpraktijken en de laagst mogelijke blootstelling van de consument. Aangezien meer dan 400 actieve stoffen onderdeel uitmaken van dit beoordelingsprogramma en er voor elke stof meer dan 300 MRL's moeten worden beoordeeld, geeft de Commissie voorrang aan de stoffen die mogelijk een gezondheidsrisico vormen. Daarom is voor ongeveer een derde van de in het verslag van de ngo's genoemde stoffen de beoordelingsprocedure inmiddels afgerond of zijn er juridische voorstellen in voorbereiding waarover met de lidstaten besprekingen worden gevoerd. De meeste andere stoffen staan op de prioriteitenlijst voor beoordeling door de EFSA. Zodra de wetenschappelijke beoordelingen beschikbaar zijn, volgen er juridische maatregelen. Voor stoffen die niet op de prioriteitenlijst van de EFSA staan, verbindt de Commissie zich ertoe deze zaken grondig te onderzoeken teneinde de noodzaak van verdere stappen te bepalen.

De Commissie wijst erop dat voor het door de ngo's opgestelde verslag een ander model is gebruikt voor de beoordeling van de acute blootstelling van consumenten dan het internationaal erkende model dat de EFSA gebruikt. De conclusies kunnen daarom in sommige gevallen van elkaar verschillen.

Met betrekking tot het cumulatieve risico van verschillende pesticiden, werkt de EFSA momenteel aan een methodologie waarmee de cumulatieve risico's kunnen worden beoordeeld. Zodra de methodologie beschikbaar is, zal de Commissie bij de vaststelling van de MRL's rekening houden met de cumulatieve blootstelling.

([1]) PB L 70 van 16.3.2005, blz. 1.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010176/13
to the Commission
Kartika Tamara Liotard (GUE/NGL)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Pesticide contamination of fruit and vegetables exceeding acute reference dose

On 9 September, the Environmental Defence and Foodwatch NGOs published a report in the Netherlands expressing concern that the acute reference dose was being exceeded by the contamination of fruit and vegetables in European food chains by pesticide residues, affecting not only vulnerable sectors of society but also the population as a whole.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that the maximum residue limit (MRL) applicable to a number of pesticides may allow the acute reference dose for certain sectors of the population (in this case young children) to be exceeded, as indicated in Table 3 of the report entitled 'Inadequate statutory limits in respect of toxic residues in vegetables and fruit' (2013).

2. If so, can the Commission take prompt action to reassess existing limits and introduce safety standards accordingly so as to ensure that acute reference doses are not exceeded in respect of any population sectors?

3. If the Commission disagrees with the conclusions of the report, does that mean it is satisfied that the acute reference dose cannot be exceeded under any of the European maximum residue limits?

4. Article 1 of Regulation EC No 1107/2009 underlines the need to ensure that active substances or products placed on the market do not adversely affect animal or human health or the environment. However a number of pesticides, while remaining within statutory legal limits, still exceed the acute reference dose. To what extent do statutory safety limits run counter to the provisions of Article 1 of Regulation EC No 1107/2009?

5. The report also expresses concern at the cumulative risk of consuming certain fruits and vegetables resulting in the ingestion of certain types of pesticide. To what extent has research been carried out into the health risks of pesticide combinations? What specific research has been carried out into the cumulative effect on health of various types of authorised pesticide? Has research been carried out on the basis of consumption patterns in the various Member States?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(10 October 2013)

The European Commission is currently systematically reviewing all existing maximum residue limits under Art. 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 ([1]), an exercise that is carried out with high priority. Maximum residue levels (MRLs) are the upper legal levels of a concentration for pesticide residues in or on food or feed based on good agricultural practices and the lowest possible consumer exposure. Since more than 400 active substances are in this review programme and more than 300 MRLs for each substance are to be reviewed, the Commission has prioritised those substances where potential health concerns exist. Therefore, for about one third of the substances mentioned in the report of the NGOs the review exercise is either already finalised in the meantime or legal proposals are being prepared and under discussion with the Member States. The majority of the other substances are on the priority list for EFSA review. Once scientific opinions are available, this will be followed up by legal action. For substances not on the EFSA priority list the Commission commits to closely examine these cases with a view to deciding about the need for further steps.

The Commission notes that in the report drafted by the NGOs, the assessment of the acute exposure to consumers has been carried out using a different model than the internationally recognised model that is used by EFSA. Conclusions may therefore differ in some cases.

As regards the cumulative risk from different pesticides, EFSA is currently working on a methodology that will allow the assessment of cumulative risks. The Commission will take into account cumulative exposure when setting MRLs once the methodology is available.

([1]) OJ L70, 16.3.2005, p.1.

(České znění)

Otázka k písemnému zodpovězení E-010177/13
Komisi
Andrea Češková (ECR)
(12. září 2013)

Předmět: Chybějící datum výroby a spotřeby na kosmetických přípravcích

Kosmetické výrobky musí mít na obalu uvedené datum spotřeby, ale pouze v případě, že doba jejich upotřebitelnosti je kratší než 30 měsíců. Dle výrobců kosmetiky se toto týká prakticky a převážně pouze sluneční kosmetiky. Ostatní kosmetické přípravky nemusí mít na obalech uvedenou dobu spotřeby, ale jsou pouze označeny symbolem, který označuje dobu upotřebitelnosti přípravku po otevření.

Spotřebitel není schopen při koupi přípravku zjistit, kdy byl vyroben a do kdy si přípravek zachová deklarované vlastnosti. Zda není přípravek prošlý, musí spotřebitel dle vlastností výrobku poznat sám. Na většině ryze kosmetických přípravků se datum spotřeby nevyskytuje, a to ani na kosmetice určené pro děti, jako jsou tělové krémy, šampony a sprchové gely. Tato situace vede k nejistotě spotřebitelů ohledně kvality a bezpečnosti zakoupených kosmetických přípravků.

V této souvislosti si dovoluji položit Komisi následující otázku a požádat o její individuální zodpovězení:

Mohla by Komise objasnit, zda se tato situace řeší a v jaké fázi se proces řešení nachází?

Odpověď komisaře Mimicy jménem Komise
(7. listopadu 2013)

Nařízení (ES) č. 1223/2009 o kosmetických přípravcích [1] vyžaduje, aby na trh byly uváděny pouze bezpečné kosmetické přípravky, a stanoví přísné požadavky na odpovědné osoby, které zaručují vysokou úroveň bezpečnosti pro spotřebitele.

Podle tohoto nařízení smí být kosmetický přípravek dodáván na trh, pouze pokud jsou na obalu, do kterého je přípravek naplněn, a na jeho vnějším obalu nesmazatelně, čitelně a viditelně uvedeny údaje, jejichž seznam je obsažen v čl. 19 odst. 1. Mezi údaji, které musí být poskytnuty, je datum, do kterého kosmetický přípravek skladovaný za vhodných podmínek bude nadále plnit svou původní funkci, a zejména datum, do kterého bude nadále bezpečný pro lidské zdraví („datum minimální trvanlivosti"). Datum minimální trvanlivosti musí být zřetelně uvedeno a musí být podle potřeby doplněno údajem o podmínkách, které musí být splněny, aby byla zaručena uvedená trvanlivost přípravku.

Údaj o datu minimální trvanlivosti však není povinný u kosmetických přípravků, jejichž minimální trvanlivost přesahuje 30 měsíců. U těchto přípravků se uvede údaj o době, po kterou je přípravek po otevření bezpečný a lze jej používat, aniž by došlo k újmě na zdraví spotřebitele. Proto lze mít za to, že tyto přípravky jsou pro spotřebitele bezpečné během „doby po otevření", která je uvedena na obalu.

[1] Úř. věst. L 342, 22.12.2009, s. 59.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010177/13
to the Commission
Andrea Češková (ECR)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Missing manufacture and 'use-by' dates on cosmetic products

Cosmetic products must include 'use-by' dates on their packaging, but only in cases where they should be used within 30 months. According to cosmetics manufacturers, this category almost exclusively consists of sun care products. Other cosmetic products are not required to provide a 'use-by' date on their packaging, but rather they must include a symbol indicating the period within which the product should be used once it has been opened.

Consumers are unable to determine when a product was manufactured and for how long it will retain its declared properties when purchasing a product. It is up to the customer to determine whether or not a product has expired by examining its properties. 'Use-by' dates are not provided for most purely cosmetic products, and this includes cosmetic products for children, such as body milk, shampoo and shower gel. This situation gives rise to uncertainty in consumers with regard to the quality and safety of the cosmetic products that they buy.

Could the Commission explain if this issue is being addressed? If so, what is the state of play as regards the process to find a solution?

Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission
(7 November 2013)

The Cosmetics Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 ([1]) requires that only safe cosmetic products are placed on the market and imposes strict requirements on responsible persons, which guarantee a high level of safety for consumers.

According to this regulation cosmetic products shall be made available on the market only where the container and packaging of cosmetic products bear the information listed in Article 19(1) in indelible, easily legible and visible lettering. Among the information which must be provided is the date until which the cosmetic product, stored under appropriate conditions, will continue to fulfil its initial function and, in particular, the date until which it will remain safe for human health ('date of minimum durability'). The date of minimum durability shall be clearly expressed and if necessary it shall be supplemented by an indication of the conditions which must be satisfied to guarantee the stated durability of the product.

However, the indication of the date of minimum durability is not mandatory for cosmetic products with a minimum durability of more than 30 months. For such products, there shall be an indication of the period of time after opening for which the product is safe and can be used without any harm to the consumer. Thus it can be considered that such products are safe for the consumers during the 'period after opening' indicated on the labelling.

([1]) OJ L 342, 22.12.2009, p.59.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010178/13
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: VP/HR — Descubrimiento de ocho cadáveres de saharauis asesinados por el Ejército marroquí

El pasado martes, un equipo de investigación forense de la Universidad del País Vasco que trabajaba en territorios del Sahara Occidental descubrió ocho cadáveres de víctimas saharauis ejecutadas en 1976 por el Ejército marroquí, conservando dos de ellas incluso su Documento Nacional de Identidad español.

Se trata del primer hallazgo documentado de fosas comunes que demuestran los asesinatos de civiles que el Ejército marroquí llevó a cabo en territorio del Sahara Occidental. Las ocho víctimas, entre las que se encuentran dos menores de edad, fueron asesinadas por disparos de arma de fuego el 12 de febrero de 1976. El testimonio de un testigo que presenció los hechos y que entonces tenía 13 años ayudó al equipo a localizar los cadáveres.

El asesinato tuvo lugar en la región de Smara y, según los testimonios aportados, fueron detenidos por pertenecer supuestamente al Frente Polisario. El Ejército detuvo a un grupo que incluía a tres menores de edad, incluyendo al testigo de los hechos. Fueron asesinados a sangre fría beduinos que no habían cometido crimen alguno y cuyo paradero se ha mantenido en secreto por parte de Marruecos, cuyo «Informe de la Instancia de Equidad y Reconciliación» de 2006 queda completamente en entredicho. El descubrimiento del equipo permite esclarecer que Marruecos facilitó información falsa, puesto que afirmaba que los civiles documentados fallecieron durante las detenciones en la base militar de Smara.

Este descubrimiento señala la necesidad de recuperar la memoria de las víctimas del conflicto del Sahara Occidental para poder demostrar la falsedad de las informaciones aportadas por Marruecos a la comunidad internacional, así como exigir responsabilidades a España en la investigación de dichos crímenes.

¿Conoce la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante el descubrimiento de los citados cadáveres? A la luz de estos descubrimientos, ¿piensa que la Minurso debe incorporar los Derechos Humanos entre sus competencias para poder esclarecer las mentiras de las informaciones aportadas por Marruecos en sus informes sobre el conflicto?

¿Considera necesaria la investigación por parte de equipos independientes de las desapariciones de saharauis aún no esclarecidas? ¿Piensa solicitar a España que emprenda una investigación al respecto de los ciudadanos españoles asesinados por Marruecos de cara a la persecución universal de crímenes contra los derechos humanos?

Respuesta de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta Ashton en nombre de la Comisión
(24 de octubre de 2013)

La Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta está perfectamente al corriente del descubrimiento de los cadáveres de los ocho saharauis desaparecidos desde 1976 e identificados por Carlos Martín Beristain y Francisco Etxeberria Gabilondo (Universidad del País Vasco). La Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta lamenta la violencia en el conflicto del Sahara Occidental y acompaña en el sentimiento a las familias de las víctimas. Las consecuencias jurídicas de este y otros asuntos, así como las relacionadas con las obligaciones internacionales en materia de derechos humanos, son objeto de conversaciones periódicas, sobre todo entre el Gobierno de Marruecos y el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Desapariciones Forzadas o Involuntarias de las Naciones Unidas. La UE velará por mantenerse puntualmente informada. También insta a todas las partes a respetar sus obligaciones internacionales en materia de derechos humanos y condena la violencia con la máxima firmeza.

Los miembros del Consejo de Seguridad de ls Naciones Unidas adoptaron el 25 de abril de 2013 el mandato de la Minurso para el período en curso. No le corresponde a la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta comentar tales decisiones. La Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta insta a las partes a esforzarse por encontrar una solución política justa, duradera y aceptable para todas las partes que contemple la autodeterminación de la población del Sáhara Occidental, de acuerdo con las resoluciones pertinentes del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas. En opinión de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta, esclarecer la historia reciente forma parte de este proceso.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010178/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Discovery of the bodies of eight Sahrawis killed by the Moroccan army

Last Tuesday, a forensic investigation team from the University of the Basque Country working in the territory of Western Sahara discovered eight bodies of Sahrawi victims executed in 1976 by the Moroccan army, two of which still had their Spanish national identity cards.

This is the first documented finding of mass graves which prove the killing of civilians by the Moroccan army in the territory of Western Sahara. The eight victims, two of whom were minors, were shot dead on 12 February 1976. The account of a witness who saw what happened and who was aged 13 at the time helped the team to locate the bodies.

The killings took place in the Smara region and, according to the accounts provided, they were arrested for supposedly belonging to the Frente Polisario. The army arrested a group which included three minors, including the witness. Bedouins were killed in cold blood without having committed any crime and their whereabouts has been kept quiet by Morocco, whose 2006 'Equity and Reconciliation Commission Report' is still being called into question in every respect. The team's discovery makes it clear that Morocco provided false information, as it stated that the documented civilians died while being held at the military base in Smara.

This discovery signals the need to remember the victims of the conflict in Western Sahara to prove that the information provided by Morocco to the international community was false and to ask Spain to take responsibility for investigating these crimes.

Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of the discovery of these bodies? In the light of these discoveries, does she believe that the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) should incorporate Human Rights into its competencies in order to shed light on the lies in the information provided by Morocco in its reports on the conflict?

Does she consider it necessary for independent teams to investigate the disappearances of Sahrawis who have still not been found? Does she plan to ask Spain to undertake an investigation with regard to Spanish citizens killed by Morocco with a view to the universal prosecution of crimes against human rights?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(24 October 2013)

The HR/VP is well aware of the discovery of the bodies of the eight Sahrawis which were missing since 1976, identified by Carlos Martín Beristain and Francisco Etxeberria Gabilondo (University of the Basque Country). The HR/VP deplores the violence in the Western Sahara conflict and shares the sadness of the relatives. The legal implications and those in terms of international human rights obligations of this case (as well as others) are subject to regular discussions notably between the government of Morocco and the U.N. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The EU will ensure it remains closely informed. The EU calls on all parties to respect their international human rights obligations and condemns violence in the strongest terms.

The MINURSO mandate for the ongoing period has been adopted on 25 April 2013 by the UN Security Council members. It is not the role of the HR/VP to comment on those decisions. The HR/VP encourages the parties to work towards achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in agreement with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In the understanding of the HR/VP, elucidation of recent history is part of this process.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-010179/13
aan de Commissie
Auke Zijlstra (NI)
(12 september 2013)

Betreft: Meer geld voor Griekenland

De Duitse minister van Financiën, Wolfgang Schäuble, heeft voor de eerste keer in augustus 2013 aangekondigd dat Griekenland opnieuw een reddingsoperatie zou nodig hebben ([1]). Dit is nu ook bevestigd door Luc Coene, gouverneur van de Nationale Bank van België en lid van de Raad van bestuur van de ECB, die uitdrukkelijk heeft verklaard dat Griekenland nog één of zelfs twee reddingsoperaties nodig heeft ([2]).

Volgens het Internationaal Monetair Fonds (IMF) zal Griekenland tussen 2014 en 2016 tegen een financieringstekort van 11 miljard euro aankijken en zal het land naar alle waarschijnlijkheid een bijkomende schuldverlichting nodig hebben tegen eind 2013 ([3]).

Kan de Commissie in het licht hiervan antwoorden op de volgende vragen:

1. Deelt de Commissie de standpunten van het IMF en van de heer Coene?

2. Indien ja, welke initiatieven zal zij nemen om het Griekse financieringstekort aan te pakken? Zal zij vragen om een nieuwe reddingsoperatie of schuldverlichting?

3. Kan zij in het geval van een nieuwe reddingsoperatie garanderen dat de leningen volledig zullen worden terugbetaald?

4. Stemt zij ermee in dat de eurozone is omgevormd tot een permanente „overschrijvingsunie"?

5. Indien ja, waarom geeft zij het publiek niet een serieuze en nauwkeurige kosten-batenanalyse van een Griekse wanbetaling?

6. Is de Commissie het er niet mee eens dat indien Griekenland zijn schulden niet aflost, dit veel minder zal kosten voor de schuldeisende landen en minder pijnlijk zal zijn voor de Griekse bevolking?

7. Indien zij het niet eens is met de hoger genoemde uitspraken en bevindingen, kan zij deze weerleggen?

Antwoord van de heer Rehn namens de Commissie
(25 oktober 2013)

Het Grieks programma laat tot eind 2014 een relatief klein financieringstekort van 3,8 miljard euro, zoals vermeld in tabel 9 van het door de Europese Commissie gepubliceerde nalevingsrapport ([4]) na het derde controlebezoek. Een bijgewerkte beoordeling van de Griekse financieringsbehoeften wordt voorbereid tijdens de lopende controle en zal in de desbetreffende programmeringsdocumenten worden medegedeeld. In dit stadium is het niet raadzaam om te speculeren over de omvang van het tekort en over de mogelijke manieren om het te dekken.

In november 2012 heeft de Eurogroep gesteld dat de lidstaten van de eurozone, indien nodig, verdere maatregelen en bijstand zouden overwegen, wanneer Griekenland een jaarlijks primair overschot boekt, mits alle voorwaarden in het programma zijn vervuld, om ervoor te zorgen dat Griekenland in 2020 kan komen tot een schuldquote van 124 % van het bbp en tot een veel lagere schuldquote van minder dan 110 % in 2022. Daarom hangt de uitkomst van mogelijke besprekingen over verdere maatregelen en bijstand aan Griekenland in de eerste plaats af van het realiseren door Griekenland van een primair overschot en van de volledige uitvoering van het programma.

De financiële bijstand aan Griekenland vereist de naleving van Griekenland van de voorwaarden van het economisch aanpassingsprogramma, dat is opgesteld om te komen tot een meer solide basis voor groei en jobcreatie en om ervoor te zorgen dat Griekenland in de eurozone bleef. Dit doel is bereikt en de hypothese van een Griekse wanbetaling waarnaar het geachte Parlementslid verwijst, is uitgesloten.

([1]) http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-23774633.
([2]) http://www.telegraaf.nl/dft/nieuws_dft/21882028/__Nog_een_of_twee_steunpakketten_naar_Griekenland__.html
([3]) http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/70b9d150-f9e4-11e2-b8ef-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2eabM2ud4.
([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/assistance_eu_ms/greek_loan_facility/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010179/13
to the Commission
Auke Zijlstra (NI)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: More money for Greece

Germany's finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, announced for the first time in August 2013 that Greece would need another bailout ([1]). This has now been confirmed by Luc Coene, Governor of the National Bank of Belgium and member of the Governing Council of the ECB, who has explicitly stated that Greece will need one or even two additional bailouts ([2]).

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Greece will face a EUR 11 billion funding gap between 2014 and 2016 and the country will most likely need additional debt relief by the end of 2013 ([3]).

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission share the views of the IMF and Mr Coene?
2. If so, what action does it plan to take in order to address the Greek funding gap? Will it ask for a new bailout or debt relief?
3. In the case of an additional bailout, can it guarantee that the loans will be fully repaid?
4. Does it agree that the eurozone has been transformed into a permanent transfer union?
5. If so, why does it not provide the public with a serious and accurate cost-benefit analysis of a Greek default?
6. Does the Commission not agree that if Greece defaults on its repayments it will be far less onerous for creditor countries and less painful for the Greek people?
7. If it does not agree with the above statements and findings, can it refute them?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

The Greek programme has a relatively small financing gap of EUR 3.8 billion until the end of 2014, as indicated in Table 9 of the compliance report ([4]) published by the European Commission following the 3rd review mission. An updated assessment of Greece's financing needs is being prepared during the ongoing review mission and will be communicated in the related programme documents. Speculation at this stage about the size of the gap and possible ways to cover it is not warranted.

In November 2012, the Eurogroup stated that euro area Member States will consider further measures and assistance, if necessary, when Greece reaches an annual primary surplus, conditional on full implementation of all conditions contained in the programme in order to ensure that Greece can reach a debt-to-GDP ratio of 124% of GDP in 2020, and a debt-to-GDP ratio substantially lower than 110% in 2022. Therefore, the outcome of possible discussions on further measures and assistance to Greece hinges first and foremest upon the achievement by Greece of a primary surplus and full programme implementation.

Financial assistance to Greece requires compliance of Greece with the conditions set out in its economic adjustment programme, which was conceived to build a more solid basis for growth and job creation and ensure that Greece remained in the euro area. This objective has been achieved, and the hypothesis of a Greek default mentioned by the Honourable Member is out of the question.

([1]) http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-23774633
([2]) http://www.telegraaf.nl/dft/nieuws_dft/21882028/___Nog_een_of_twee_steunpakketten_naar_Griekenland___.html
([3]) http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/70b9d150-f9e4-11e2-b8ef-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2eabM2ud4
([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/assistance_eu_ms/greek_loan_facility/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010180/13
to the Commission
Glenis Willmott (S&D) and Bill Newton Dunn (ALDE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Retrofit Emission Control

After three years of consultation and preparation, the Inland Transport Committee of UNECE (the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) and its World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations are about to finalise, through the Working Party on Pollution and Energy (WP 29) and for 2014, a proposal for a new regulation on uniform provisions concerning the approval of Retrofit Emission Control Devices (REC) for heavy duty vehicles, agricultural and forestry tractors and non-road mobile machinery equipped with compression ignition engines.

This new regulation will be of great importance for the use and homologation of retrofit devices. Given the urgent need to reduce air pollution in Europe, retrofitting is an opportunity to raise emission standards for older diesel engines.

Can the Commission provide information on the process and a timeline for making the UNECE REC standard legally binding in the EU?

Can the Commission explain how EU standards for certification of retrofitted emission control devices (replacing Vert, FAD, and other national standards) will be introduced?

Furthermore, can the Commission clarify whether funds earmarked for the promotion of clean urban transport under the European Regional Development Fund can be used for retrofitting city buses?

Does the Commission offer grants or other funding schemes to assist Member States in meeting their air quality targets?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(7 November 2013)

1. The draft Regulation on REC is being developed at UNECE in two stages. A first text will be adopted in WP29 ([1]) in November 2013. The second one, gathering enhanced requirements in terms of equipment performance, should be adopted by WP29 in June 2014. Once that latter text is adopted, it will become applicable among UNECE Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement ([2]), and therefore in EU Member States for the purposes of mutual recognition of REC type-approvals.

2. The requirements on mandatory type-approval apply to new vehicles and engines, and not to retrofit technology. This approach has proven so far to be satisfactory, and hence, it is not envisaged to make the REC UNECE rules legally binding for the purposes of EC type-approval. This would mean, in principle, that authorities at national, regional or local level could reinforce the requirements of the regulation with complementary or alternative national measures in order to improve the air quality in their respective areas. However, it is believed that the REC Regulation sets out a strong reference for national retrofit schemes, and expected that the latter are developed in accordance with the regulation.

3. Under the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy, about EUR 5.9 billion have been allocated to projects which aimed at the promotion of clean urban transport. It is for each Member State to select and implement relevant projects and to decide about the level of co-financing from the Structural and Cohesion funds.

4. Grants have been available for research and innovation aimed at improving air quality during the FP7 and will continue to be available under the new Horizon 2020. In addition, under the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy, about EUR 850 Million have been allocated to 'air quality' programmes and projects.

([1]) WP29: World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations, working party for the adoption of globally harmonised regulations on vehicles.
([2]) 1958 Agreement: Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions of approval and reciprocal recognition of approval for motor vehicle equipment and parts.

(Wersja polska)

Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-010181/13
do Komisji
Filip Kaczmarek (PPE) oraz Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa (PPE)
(12 września 2013 r.)

Przedmiot: Uczciwość pomocy humanitarnej

W 2012 r. w reakcji na klęskę żywiołową, jaką był huragan Sandy, Komisja przyznała kwotę 6 mln EUR z tytułu pomocy finansowej w sytuacjach wyjątkowych na rzecz osób poszkodowanych między innymi na Kubie i Haiti. Pomoc ta przyniosła natychmiastowy efekt: dostarczono żywność i artykuły pierwszej potrzeby oraz wyremontowano domy i przywrócono dostawy wody.

Na Kubie większość pomocy otrzymanej z zewnątrz, zwłaszcza materiały budowlane przeznaczone dla instytucji państwowych, które ucierpiały w wskutek huraganu – głównie szkół i szpitali – sprzedano na czarnym rynku. Nadal jednak wiele osób pozostaje bez dachu nad głową.

Ziarno i zboże, jak np. ryż i fasola, które Komisja przekazała w pakiecie pomocy, zostały sprzedane w wielu punktach kraju po bardzo rozsądnych cenach w ciągu pierwszych dwóch miesięcy po przejściu huraganu.

Zwracam się w związku z tym z pytaniem:

jak Komisja udoskonali niesienie pomocy humanitarnej, tak aby w przyszłości trafiała ona bezpośrednio do osób najbardziej potrzebujących oraz jak Komisja zapewni uczciwość tej pomocy?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez komisarz Kristalinę Georgijewą w imieniu Komisji
(6 listopada 2013 r.)

Finansowane przez UE działania w ramach pomocy humanitarnej są prowadzone przez partnerów humanitarnych, którymi są przeważnie organizacje międzynarodowe i pozarządowe mające siedziby w Unii. Komisja zapewnia właściwą realizację takich działań poprzez wielostopniowe środki kontroli przewidziane na różnych etapach cyklu projektu, w tym:

— rygorystyczne warunki i kryteria wyboru partnerów humanitarnych;

— ocenę proponowanych projektów oraz regularne monitorowanie ich realizacji przez Komisję, zarówno w centrali, jak i w terenie, z silnym zaangażowaniem ekspertów terenowych Komisji (asystentów technicznych) na całym świecie;

— wymóg przedstawiania sprawozdań przez partnerów na koniec każdego działania;

— ocenę działań (i publikację wyników na stronie internetowej Komisji);

— dodatkową gwarancję wynikającą z audytów ex post.

Mechanizmy te uzupełniają się nawzajem, oferując racjonalną gwarancję prawidłowości i jakości realizacji działań w ramach pomocy humanitarnej.

Reakcja UE na huragan Sandy na Kubie była szybka i dobrze skoordynowana. W jej ramach przeznaczono 4 mln euro na sześć projektów w Santiago i w prowincji Holguin. Asystenci techniczni Komisji przeprowadzili dwie misje monitorujące w maju i wrześniu 2013 r. Wyniki tych misji, uwzględniające opinie partnerów humanitarnych i beneficjentów, świadczyły o efektywnej realizacji trwających projektów. Większą część pomocy przeznaczono na naprawę dachów: 30 % dachów już odbudowano, natomiast 60 % materiałów budowlanych było gotowych do dystrybucji, a więc prawdopodobieństwo ich odsprzedaży było niewielkie. Nie stwierdzono nadużyć ani nielegalnego handlu.

Komisja jest gotowa prowadzić dalsze dochodzenia dotyczące podejrzeń zgłoszonych przez Szanownych Panów Posłów, o ile zostaną przedstawione bardziej szczegółowe dowody.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010181/13
to the Commission
Filip Kaczmarek (PPE) and Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Integrity of humanitarian aid

In 2012, in response to the natural disaster caused by Hurricane Sandy, the Commission allocated EUR 6 million in emergency funding to people affected in Cuba and Haiti, among other countries. This assistance provided immediate relief: delivering food and basic household items, repairing houses and restoring water services.

In Cuba most of the aid received from abroad, particularly building materials destined for state institutions which had suffered damage during the hurricane — mainly schools and hospitals — was sold on the black market. Yet there are still many people who are living without shelter.

Grains and cereals, such as rice and beans, which were part of the Commission aid package, were sold at various locations at very reasonable prices in the first two months following the hurricane.

In the light of the above:

How will the Commission improve the delivery of humanitarian aid in the future so that it goes directly to those who need it the most, and how will it ensure its integrity?

Answer given by Ms Georgieva on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

EU-funded humanitarian aid actions are carried out by humanitarian partners (mostly international organisations and non-governmental organisations based in the Union). The Commission ensures proper implementation of these actions through several layers of checks and controls at various stages of the project cycle, including:

— strict conditions and criteria for the selection of humanitarian partners;

— appraisal of project proposals and regular project monitoring by the Commission, both at headquarters and field levels, relying strongly on the Commission field experts (technical assistants) worldwide;

— obligation for partners to produce reports at the end of each action;

— evaluations of actions (results are posted on the Commission's website);

— additional assurance derived from *ex-post* audits.

These mechanisms are mutually supportive in providing reasonable assurance on the regularity and quality of implementation of humanitarian aid actions.

The EU's response to Hurricane Sandy in Cuba has been fast and well-coordinated. It led to EUR 4 000 000 being allocated to six projects in Santiago and the Holguin province. The Commission's technical assistants conducted two monitoring missions in May and September 2013. Their findings, taking into account views from humanitarian partners and beneficiaries, pointed to an effective implementation of ongoing projects. Most of the aid was earmarked for roofing work; 30% of roofs had already been rebuilt while 60% of building material was ready for distribution, thus not likely to be subject to resale. No trafficking or fraud has been reported.

The Commission stands ready to investigate further the allegations made by the Honourable Members should more detailed evidence be presented.

(Hrvatska verzija)

Pitanje za pisani odgovor E-010182/13
upućeno Komisiji
Nikola Vuljanić (GUE/NGL)
(12. rujna 2013.)

Predmet: Garancija EU-a za mlade

Europska komisija je pokrenula projekt „Garancija za mlade" kojim želi potaknuti veću zaposlenost mladih, posebno u zemljama pogođenima dubokom krizom poput Grčke, Španjolske, ali i Hrvatske koja je u prošloj godini u ukupnom broju nezaposlenih, imala čak 40 % mladih do 29 godina.

Svjesni problema da generacije mladih ne mogu pronaći posao, jasno je da je ovakav potez i više nego potreban.

S druge strane, postavlja se pitanje kvalitete i sveobuhvatnosti „Garancije za mlade" s obzirom na to da je za taj projekt planirano svega 6 milijardi eura, što su istaknule i brojne organizacije mladih diljem Europe.

U posljednjoj preporuci Europska komisija postavila je do kraja listopada rok za predaju implementacijskih planova sa statističkim regijama gdje nezaposlenost prelazi 25 % što, nažalost, dovodi do procesa u kojem se želi zadovoljiti forma nauštrb kvalitete.

Treba napomenuti da u Hrvatskoj nije provedena kvalitetna rasprava između socijalnih partnera poput sindikata i udruženja mladih Hrvatske koji su svoje primjedbe predstavili Glavnoj upravi za zapošljavanje, socijalna pitanja i jednake mogućnosti (DG EMPL).

Ima li Komisija precizne procjene o tome koliki će biti učinak „Garancije za mlade", posebno u Hrvatskoj?

Na koji se način planira provoditi nadzor i evaluacija provedbe i hoće li biti moguća izmjena mjera s obzirom na to da neke od njih nisu u skladu s društveno-ekonomskim prilikama u Hrvatskoj?

Odgovor gospodina Andora u ime Komisije
(31. listopada 2013.)

Program država članica Jamstvo za mlade financirat će se posebno sa 6 milijardi eura namijenjenih za Inicijativu zapošljavanja mladih u razdoblju 2014. — 2020. Pola iznosa doći će iz Europskog socijalnog fonda, glavnog instrumenta EU-a za ulaganje u ljude, dok se ostala sredstva država članica iz Europskog socijalnog fonda za razdoblje 2014. — 2020. mogu također koristiti u svrhu rješavanja nezaposlenost mladih putem zaposlenja, obrazovanja i osposobljavanja.

U skladu s preporukama Jamstva za mlade [1], program Jamstvo za mlade usmjerit će se na regije država članica koje su najviše pogođene nezaposlenošću mladih te na pružanje pomoći putem „kvalitetne ponude poslova, nastavka obrazovanja, strukovnog naukovanja ili pripravništva unutar razdoblja od četiri mjeseca nakon gubitka posla ili nakon napuštanja formalnog obrazovanja". Sredstva Inicijative zapošljavanja mladih pružaju financijsku pomoć za aktivnosti koje čine sastavni dio programa Jamstvo za mlade kako bi se pripomoglo integraciji mladih osoba na tržište rada.

Preporukom o Jamstvu za mlade ujedno se preporučuje da „države članice osiguraju aktivnu uključenost socijalnih partnera na svim razinama izrade i provedbe politika orijentiranih na mlade te da promoviraju sinergiju između njihovih inicijativa kako bi se razvili programi strukovnog naukovanja i pripravništva." Države članice trebaju iznijeti partnerske pristupe u svojim planovima provedbe Jamstva za mlade.

U ovom stadiju Komisija ne može procijeniti potencijalni utjecaj Jamstva za mlade u Hrvatskoj, koji će ovisiti o kvaliteti usvojenih mjera i njihovoj pravovremenoj provedbi.

Programi Jamstva za mlade pratit će se i ocjenjivati u skladu s Preporukom Jamstva za mlade. U prijedlogu Komisije za Uredbu Europskog socijalnog fonda za razdoblje 2014. — 2020. utvrđuju se posebne odredbe o izvještavanju rezultata.

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[1] Preporuka Vijeća od 22. travnja 2013. o uspostavi Jamstva za mlade, SL C 120, 26.4.2013.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010182/13
to the Commission
Nikola Vuljanić (GUE/NGL)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: EU Youth Guarantee

The Commission launched its 'Youth Guarantee' scheme in order to stimulate youth employment rates, particularly in those countries hardest hit by the crisis, such as Greece and Spain, but also in Croatia, where in 2012 young people up to 29-years-old accounted for as many as 40% of all unemployed.

Given that generations of young people are unable to find employment, such an effort is absolutely vital.

However, questions remain as to the quality and universality of the 'Youth Guarantee'. Many youth organisations throughout Europe have pointed out that the total amount of funds to be set aside for this scheme is only EUR 6 billion.

In its most recent recommendation, the Commission set a deadline for the end of October 2013 for the submission of implementation plans in respect of statistical regions where unemployment exceeds 25%. This, regrettably, will result in a process favouring form at the expense of quality.

It must be pointed out that no proper consultations are being held with social partners, such as the Croatian trade unions and youth organisations which have submitted comments to the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL).

Does the Commission have accurate estimates as to how large an effect the 'Youth Guarantee' will have, with particular regard to Croatia?

How does it plan to monitor and evaluate implementation, and will it be possible to modify the measures in view of the fact that several of them are at odds with Croatia's socio-economic circumstances?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(31 October 2013)

The Member States' Youth Guarantee (YG) schemes will be funded in particular through the EUR 6 billion earmarked for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) for 2014-20. Half of that amount will come from the European Social Fund (ESF), the EU's main instrument for investing in people, while other Member State ESF resources for 2014-20 can also be used to tackle youth unemployment and support young people through employment, education and training measures.

In line with the YG Recommendation ([1]), YG schemes will focus on the Member State regions most affected by youth unemployment and provide support through 'a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education'. The YEI's resources will provide financial support for activities forming part of YG schemes to help integrate young people into the labour market.

The YG Recommendation also recommends that the Member States 'ensure the active involvement of social partners at all levels in designing and implementing policies targeted at young people and promote synergies amongst their initiatives to develop apprenticeship and traineeship schemes'. The Member States are to outline their partnership approaches in their YG implementation plans.

The Commission has at this stage no estimate of the YG's potential impact in Croatia, which will depend on the quality of the measures adopted and their timely implementation.

YG schemes will be monitored and evaluated in accordance with the YG Recommendation. The Commission proposal for an ESF Regulation for 2014-20 lays down special provisions on the reporting of results.

([1]) Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee, OJ C 120, 26.4.2013.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010183/13
alla Commissione
Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: AGCOM — Violazioni del diritto d'autore realizzate nella rete Internet

L'Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni (di seguito «AGCOM») ha posto in pubblica consultazione, il 25 luglio 2013, lo Schema di regolamento in materia di tutela del diritto d'autore sulle reti di comunicazione elettronica e procedure attuative ai sensi del decreto legislativo 9 aprile 2003, n. 70, nel cui allegato B sono esplicitate le competenze che l'Autorità italiana intende autoattribuirsi nel perseguimento delle violazioni del diritto d'autore realizzate nella rete Internet.

La Delibera consentirà infatti all'AGCOM di impedire — in maniera automatica e prescindendo dall'accertamento di qualsiasi requisito di colpevolezza, attraverso la forzosa collaborazione degli Internet Service Providers — l'accesso a siti Internet, blog, testate online ed altre fonti di informazione posti anche fuori dall'Ordinamento italiano, e/o di eliminare i contenuti pubblicati sulla rete Internet se sospettati di violazione del diritto d'autore.

Questo provvedimento rappresenta una seria minaccia per la tutela delle libertà di espressione e di informazione, garantite dall'articolo 11 della Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'Unione europea.

Sulla base di quanto sopra esposto, si chiede alla Commissione, alla quale il regolamento AGCOM in esame è stato notificato dalle Autorità italiane in data 2 settembre 2013 (Numero della notifica: 2013/496/I):

— Intende reagire e in che modo, e quali osservazioni intende esplicitare ai sensi dell'articolo 8, paragrafo 2, della direttiva 98/34/CE?

— Quale garante della Carta dei diritti fondamentali, non intende intervenire nei confronti delle Autorità italiane per impedire il dispiegarsi degli effetti di questo pernicioso provvedimento amministrativo che potrebbero mettere a rischio in seno all'Unione europea l'adeguato rispetto della libertà di espressione, così come garantita dagli strumenti internazionali concernenti i diritti umani, e in particolare dagli articoli 6 e 7 del trattato sull'Unione europea e dalla Carta dei diritti fondamentali?

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010741/13
alla Commissione
Patrizia Toia (S&D) e Luigi Berlinguer (S&D)
(19 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Regolamento AGCOM implementazione direttiva 2000/31/CE

La norma di attuazione del decreto legislativo n. 70 del 2003 che ha recepito in Italia la direttiva 2000/31/CE sul commercio elettronico non presenta di fatto alcuna «procedura attuativa» che debba essere posta in essere dall'Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni.

L'AGCOM ha posto in pubblica consultazione il 25 luglio 2013 lo schema di regolamento in materia di tutela del diritto d'autore sulle reti di comunicazione elettronica e procedure attuative ai sensi del decreto legislativo 9 aprile 2003, n. 70 ([1]) , nel cui allegato B sono invece esplicitate le competenze che l'Autorità Italiana intende autoattribuirsi nel perseguimento delle violazioni del diritto d'autore realizzate nella rete internet.

La Commissione europea, alla quale era stata notificata la proposta di regolamento AGCOM, nel rispondere formalmente ai sensi dell'articolo 8, paragrafo 2, della direttiva 98/34/CE del 22 giugno 1998 aveva fortemente censurato il provvedimento, effettuando rilievi importanti al testo della delibera che, in questi giorni, è stato tuttavia ripresentato con disposizioni ancora più limitative dei diritti e delle libertà fondamentali garantite dall'Unione.

Può la Commissione far sapere:

1. ritiene che questo provvedimento rappresenti una minaccia per la tutela delle libertà di espressione e di informazione, garantite dall'articolo 11 della Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'Unione europea;

([1]) http://www.agcom.it/Default.aspx?DocID=11564.

2. Come intende reagire alla luce del fatto che il regolamento AGCOM in esame le è stato notificato dalle autorità italiane in data 2 settembre 2013 (numero della notifica: 2013/496/I) e quali osservazioni intende esplicitare ai sensi dell'articolo 8, paragrafo 2, della direttiva 98/34/CE;

3. se intende, nella sua qualità di garante della Carta dei diritti fondamentali, intervenire nei confronti delle autorità italiane per impedire il dispiegarsi degli effetti di questo provvedimento amministrativo che potrebbero mettere a rischio in seno all'Unione europea l'adeguato rispetto della libertà di espressione, così come garantita dagli strumenti internazionali concernenti i diritti umani, in particolare dagli articoli 6 e 7 del trattato sull'Unione europea e dalla Carta dei diritti fondamentali?

Risposta congiunta di Michel Barnier a nome della Commissione

(11 novembre 2013)

La Commissione conferma che lo Schema di regolamento in materia di tutela del diritto d'autore sulle reti di comunicazione elettronica ([2]) è stato effettivamente notificato ai sensi della direttiva 98/34/CE ([3]).

La Commissione rileva che con l'attuale notifica le autorità italiane hanno comunicato una nuova misura che pertanto fuoriesce dal quadro della notifica precedente di una misura analoga ([4]).

1. L'esame della Commissione è incentrato sulla conformità dell'atto notificato con il diritto dell'UE, come previsto all'articolo 8, paragrafo 2, della direttiva 98/34/CE, e comporta in particolare l'analisi della conformità di tutte le disposizioni legislative previste con la Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'UE, nella misura in cui il provvedimento nazionale in questione attua il diritto dell'Unione europea.

In questo contesto, la Commissione desidera ricordare che, ai sensi della direttiva sul commercio elettronico, la rimozione delle informazioni o la disabilitazione dell'accesso alle medesime devono essere effettuate nel rispetto del principio della libertà di espressione ([5]).

2. In questa fase della valutazione, sarebbe prematuro affermare che la Commissione intende formulare osservazioni o emettere un parere circostanziato, oppure non reagire affatto alla notifica. Il termine per una potenziale risposta della Commissione, ai sensi della direttiva 98/34/CE, è il 3 dicembre 2013.

3. È ferma intenzione ed è compito della Commissione garantire che gli Stati membri rispettino il diritto dell'Unione e i diritti fondamentali in particolare anche quando danno attuazione all'ordinamento dell'Unione, di cui i diritti fondamentali sono parte integrante. Pertanto la Commissione si avvarrà di qualsiasi strumento necessario, all'occorrenza, per garantire che le azioni delle autorità nazionali competenti non pregiudichino tali principi.

([2]) Numero della notifica: 2013/496/I.
([3]) Direttiva 98/34/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 22 giugno 1998, che prevede una procedura d'informazione nel settore delle norme e delle regolamentazioni tecniche (GU L 204 del 21.7.1998, pag. 37-48).
([4]) Numero della notifica: 2011/403/I.
([5]) Considerando 46 della direttiva 2000/31/CE.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010183/13
to the Commission
Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: AGCOM — Online copyright infringement

On 25 July 2013 the Italian Communications Regulatory Authority, AGCOM, opened to public consultation the draft regulation on the protection of copyright on electronic communications networks and procedures for the implementation thereof pursuant to Legislative Decree No 70 of 9 April 2003. Annex B of the regulation sets out the powers that the Italian authority intends to grant itself in order to prosecute online copyright infringement.

The resolution will in fact enable AGCOM to block — automatically and without any prior requirement to establish guilt, through the obligatory cooperation of Internet Service Providers — access to websites, blogs, online newspapers and other sources of information, including those outside Italian jurisdiction, and/or to remove content from the Internet if it suspects copyright infringement.

Freedom of expression and information, guaranteed by Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, are seriously threatened by this measure.

— In view of the above, can the Commission, to which the AGCOM regulation in question was notified by the Italian authorities on 2 September 2013 (Notification No 2013/496/I), say whether it intends to take any action, and what form that action will take? What comments does it intend to make pursuant to Article 8(2) of Directive 98/34/EC?

— As guardian of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, will it not take action against the Italian authorities to prevent the spread of the effects of this harmful administrative measure, which could put due respect for freedom of expression, as guaranteed by international human rights instruments and in particular by Articles 6 and 7 of the EU Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, at risk within the European Union?

Question for written answer E-010741/13
to the Commission
Patrizia Toia (S&D) and Luigi Berlinguer (S&D)
(19 September 2013)

Subject: AGCOMregulation implementing Directive 2000/31/EC

The regulation implementing Legislative Decree No 70 of 2003, which transposed in Italy Directive 2000/31/EC on electronic commerce, does not contain any 'implementing procedure', as must be established by the Italian Communications Regulatory Authority (AGCOM).

On 25 July 2013, AGCOMopened to public consultation the draft regulation on the protection of copyright on electronic communications networks and procedures for the implementation thereof pursuant to Legislative Decree No 70 [1] of 9 April 2003. Annex B of the regulation sets out the powers that the Italian authority intends to grant itself in order to prosecute online copyright infringement.

The Commission was notified of the draft AGCOMregulation and, in its formal reply pursuant to Article 8(2) of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998, roundly condemned the measure and was highly critical of the text of the resolution, which has recently been resubmitted with even tighter restrictions on the rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the EU.

1. Does the Commission think that the freedom of expression and information, guaranteed by Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, are threatened by this measure?

2. What does it plan to do in response, in view of the fact that the AGCOMregulation in question was notified by the Italian authorities on 2 September 2013 (Notification No: 2013/496/I) and what comments does it intend to make pursuant to Article 8(2) of Directive 98/34/EC?

(1) http://www.agcom.it/Default.aspx?DocID=11564

3. As guardian of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, will it take action against the Italian authorities to prevent the spread of the effects of this administrative measure, which could put due respect for freedom of expression, as guaranteed by international human rights instruments and in particular by Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, at risk within the European Union?

Joint answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission

(11 November 2013)

The Commission can confirm that the Italian Draft Regulation Concerning the Protection of Copyright on Electronic Communication Networks ([2]) was notified under the directive 98/34/EC ([3]).

The Commission notes that the current notification represents a new notification of a new measure and is therefore not considered as part of the previous notification on a similar subject ([4]).

1. The Commission's examination is focusing on the compliance of the notified act with EC law, as envisaged by Article 8(2) of Directive 98/34/EC. This examination includes, among others, the analysis of the compliance of the envisaged legislative measures with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, to the extent that the national legislation at stake is implementing EC law.

In this context, the Commission would like to recall that according to the e-Commerce Directive, any removal or disabling of access of illegal content or information has to be undertaken in observance of the principle of freedom of expression ([5]).

2. It would, at this stage of the assessment, be premature to conclude whether the Commission will send comments or a detailed opinion to the Italian authorities, or not react at all, on the present notification. The deadline for a potential response from the Commission under Directive 98/34/EC is 3 December 2013.

3. The Commission is firmly committed to ensuring that Member States respect EC law, including, when they implement EC law, the fundamental rights that form an integral part of it. It will therefore use any instrument necessary, where needed, to ensure that these principles are not undermined by the actions of the competent national authorities.

([2]) 2013/496/I.

([3]) Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations, OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 37-48.

([4]) 2011/403/I.

([5]) Recital 46 of Directive 2000/31/EC.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010184/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Cabo Verde

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com Cabo Verde têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010185/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Comores

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com as Comores têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010186/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Costa do Marfim

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Costa do Marfim têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010187/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas— Gâmbia

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Gâmbia têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010188/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Gronelândia

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Gronelândia têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010189/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Guiné

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Guiné têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010190/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Guiné-Equatorial

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Guiné Equatorial têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010191/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Kiribati

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com o Kiribati têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010192/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Gabão

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com o Gabão têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010193/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Guiné-Bissau

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Guiné-Bissau têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010194/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Mauritânia

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Mauritânia têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010195/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Micronésia

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Micronésia têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010196/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Moçambique

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com Moçambique têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010197/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — São Tomé e Príncipe

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio daspescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com São Tomé e Príncipe têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010198/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Senegal

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com o Senegal têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010199/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Seychelles

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com as Seychelles têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010200/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Madagáscar

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com o Madagáscar têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010201/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Marrocos

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com Marrocos têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010202/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Maurícia

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com a Maurícia têm sido atingidos?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010203/13
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas — Ilhas Salomão

Considerando que:

— No âmbito dos acordos de parceria no domínio das pescas, a UE concede apoio financeiro e técnico, em troca de direitos de pesca para os navios da UE, tendo como um dos objetivos fomentar a pesca sustentável, bem como promover o desenvolvimento das políticas de pesca dos países parceiros.

Pergunto à Comissão:

Considera que os objetivos dos acordos de pesca com as Ilhas Salomão têm sido atingidos?

Resposta conjunta dada por Maria Damanaki em nome da Comissão
(27 de novembro de 2013)

Cada protocolo de um Acordo de Parceria no domínio da pesca (APP) atribui um montante específico para o apoio à aplicação da política setorial da pesca e ao fomento da pesca sustentável no país terceiro. Os objetivos anuais e plurianuais são acordadas entre a UE e o país terceiro, no âmbito de um comité conjunto que é igualmente responsável pela supervisão da utilização do apoio setorial. As atas de todas as comissões mistas (bem como os documentos comprovativos, tais como relatórios anuais sobre a utilização do apoio setorial) são enviados ao Parlamento Europeu (Secretariado da comissão PECH).

Antes da abertura de negociações com vista à renovação dos protocolos, são efetuadas avaliações *ex post* por consultores externos. Estas avaliações analisam os resultados alcançados no âmbito do acordo de parceria de pesca e, em especial, da utilização do apoio setorial. Todas as avaliações são enviadas ao Parlamento Europeu, e são publicadas no sítio Web da Comissão ([1]).

A Comissão considera que, em geral, os acordos de parceria em vigor no domínio da pesca atingiram os seus objetivos. A nova geração dos APP — Acordos de Parceria no domínio da pesca sustentável (APPS) está concebida de modo a assegurar uma maior sustentabilidade e benefícios económicos para os países parceiros.

Não existem atualmente protocolos em vigor com os seguintes países: Micronésia, Marrocos, Gâmbia, Guiné, Guiné Equatorial, Guiné Bissau, Senegal, Maurícia e Ilhas Salomão.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010184/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Cape Verde

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Cape Verde have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010185/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Comoros

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with the Comoros have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010186/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Côte d'Ivoire

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Côte d'Ivoire have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010187/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — The Gambia

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with the Gambia have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010188/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Greenland

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Greenland have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010189/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Guinea

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Guinea have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010190/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Equatorial Guinea

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Equatorial Guinea have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010191/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Kiribati

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Kiribati have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010192/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Gabon

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Gabon have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010193/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Guinea-Bissau

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Guinea-Bissau have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010194/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Mauritania

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Mauritania have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010195/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Micronesia

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Micronesia have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010196/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Mozambique

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Mozambique have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010197/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — São Tomé and Principe

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with São Tomé and Principe have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010198/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Senegal

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Senegal have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010199/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Seychelles

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Seychelles have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010200/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Madagascar

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Madagascar have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010201/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Morocco

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Morocco have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010202/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Mauritius

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with Mauritius have achieved their aims?

Question for written answer E-010203/13
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fisheries partnership agreements — Solomon Islands

Under fisheries partnership agreements the EU grants financial and technical support in return for fishing rights for EU vessels, one aim being to encourage sustainable fishing while furthering the development of partner countries' fisheries policies.

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreements with the Solomon Islands have achieved their aims?

Joint answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(27 November 2013)

Each protocol to a Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) allocates a specific amount for supporting the implementation of the sectoral fisheries policy and promoting sustainable fishing in the third country. Annual and multiannual objectives are agreed by the EU and the third country in a Joint Committee that is also responsible for monitoring the use of sectoral support. The minutes of all Joint Committees (as well as supporting documents such as annual reports on the use of sectoral support) are sent to the European Parliament (secretariat of the PECH committee).

Before the opening of negotiations on the renewal protocols, *ex-post* evaluations are carried out by external consultants. These evaluations analyse the results achieved in the framework of the FPA and in particular with the use of sectoral support. All evaluations are sent to the European Parliament and are published on the Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies/index_en.htm

The Commission considers that the FPAs in force have in general achieved their aims. The new generation of FPAs — Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) are designed to bring in enhanced sustainability and economic benefits for the partner countries.

There is currently no protocol in force with the following countries: Micronesia, Morocco, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Mauritius and Salomon Islands.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010204/13
a la Comisión
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Publicidad institucional en un número muy limitado de medios de comunicación

Recibo la respuesta de la Comisión a mi preocupación sobre la peligrosa incidencia de los contratos de publicidad institucional, porque colocan en una situación privilegiada a un número muy limitado de medios de comunicación (E-007756/2013), y espero las resoluciones en los procedimientos de información, inspección y, en su caso, de infracción que se abran. Resulta importante defender la correcta aplicación de la publicidad de los contratos públicos y las reglas de una sana competencia leal, máxime cuando estamos en el ámbito de las empresas de información, cuya actividad tanta repercusión tiene.

Sin perjuicio de la información que requiera la Comisión, les indico que, con posterioridad a la presentación de mi anterior pregunta, el Departamento de la Presidencia del Gobierno de Cataluña (España) publicó en su boletín oficial la relación de contratos suscritos durante el primer semestre de este año 2013 ([1]). Como puede verse, junto al contrato de publicidad institucional de 1 306 800 euros al que en su momento aludí, se recogen otros contratos de publicidad, de información para la ciudadanía y de anuncios para los actos de la festividad de esa Comunidad autónoma: 2 899 974,94 euros, 933 988,26 euros y 665 487,90 euros.

De ahí que insista en preguntar:

1. ¿Considera la Comisión que unos contratos de publicidad con un grupo de comunicación que casi alcanzan los tres millones de euros no implican que esa empresa esté en una situación ventajosa respecto a otros medios de comunicación europeos?

2. ¿No estima la Comisión que, si se trata de divulgar «información de interés general para la ciudadanía», deberían contratarse anuncios con la mayoría de los medios de comunicación y no solo con los pertenecientes a un grupo empresarial? ¿No sería preferible distribuir en el mayor número de lotes posibles los contratos para garantizar la máxima difusión de esas «informaciones de interés general»?

3. ¿Juzga la Comisión que la preparación y adjudicación de esos contratos de publicidad ha satisfecho las previsiones contenidas en la Directiva 2004/18/CE, de 31 de marzo, sobre coordinación de los procedimientos de adjudicación de los contratos públicos de obras, de suministro y de servicios?

Respuesta del Sr. Barnier en nombre de la Comisión
(29 de octubre de 2013)

Su Señoría aporta información adicional sobre los contratos de publicidad institucional adjudicados por el Gobierno catalán durante el primer trimestre de 2013. Esta información será tenida en cuenta por la Comisión en el marco de los contactos con las autoridades españolas para recabar los elementos fácticos en relación con la situación planteada por Su Señoría. Se trata de un paso previo a la evaluación jurídica de la situación a la luz de la Directiva 2004/18/CE.

En el marco de las normas de contratación pública de la UE, los órganos de contratación siguen teniendo libertad para definir el contenido y el ámbito de los contratos públicos que decidan someter a concurso. Sin embargo, la libertad de los órganos de contratación de definir sus objetivos no puede obstaculizar la eficacia de las normas de contratación pública de la UE. En cualquier caso, deben respetar los principios de igualdad de trato y de no discriminación de los licitadores con vistas a garantizar una competencia efectiva entre los agentes económicos.

([1]) Accesibles en la web: http://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utilsEADOP/PDF/6440/1314385.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010204/13
to the Commission
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Institutional advertising in a very limited number of media outlets

I received the Commission's answer to my concerns about the dangerous use of institutional advertising contracts because they put a very limited number of media outlets in a privileged position (E-007756/2013), and I await the outcome of the information, inspection and, where applicable, infringement proceedings. It is important to defend the correct application of the advertising of public contracts and the rules of fair, healthy competition, all the more so when it comes to media companies, whose activities have such repercussions.

Without prejudice to the information required by the Commission, I would highlight that, following my previous question, the Office of the Head of the Government of Catalonia (Spain) published in its official journal details of the contracts signed during the first quarter of 2013 ([1]). As you can see, together with the institutional advertising contract for EUR 1 306 800 which I referred to at the time, there are other advertising contracts, contracts on information for citizens and advertisements for events held in this Autonomous Community worth EUR 2 899 974.94, EUR 933 988.26 and EUR 665 487.90.

I therefore ask:

1. Does the Commission not consider that having advertising contracts with one media group worth almost EUR 3 million implies that this company is at an advantage compared with other European media outlets?

2. Does the Commission not believe that, if it is a case of disseminating 'information of general interest to citizens', advertisements should be taken out with most media outlets and not just those belonging to one business group? Would it not be preferable to distribute the contracts between as many sources as possible in order to ensure maximum dissemination of this 'information of general interest'?

3. Does the Commission consider that the preparation and award of these advertising contracts comply with the provisions contained in Directive 2004/18/EC of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(29 October 2013)

The Honourable Member provides additional information related to the contracts for institutional advertising awarded by the Catalan Government during the first quarter of 2013. This information will be taken into account by the Commission in the context of the ongoing contacts with the Spanish authorities to gather the factual elements in relation to the situation raised by the Honourable Member. This is a step prior to the legal assessment of the situation in the light of Directive 2004/18/EC.

In the context of EU public procurement rules, contracting authorities remain free to define the content and the scope of the public contracts that they decide to tender out. However, the freedom of contracting authorities to define their objectives cannot hamper the 'effet utile' of EU public procurement rules. They have, in any case, to observe the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination of the bidders in order to ensure effective competition among the economic operators.

([1]) Available at: http://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utilsEADOP/PDF/6440/1314385.pdf

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010205/13
a la Comisión
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Real Colegio de España en Bolonia (Italia)

A mi pregunta sobre el acceso discriminado del Real Colegio de España en Bolonia a las becas que ofrece, entre otros motivos, por razones de sexo, nacionalidad o creencias (E-007189/2013), me remite la Comisión Europea a los Tribunales. Tienen ciertamente los jueces y tribunales españoles jurisdicción y competencia para analizar la incompatibilidad de los Estatutos del citado Colegio con el Derecho comunitario europeo. Pero si me dirigí a la Comisión fue porque considero que, en virtud de sus funciones enunciadas en el artículo 17, apartado1, del Tratado de Lisboa, puede sugerir de manera más eficaz a los órganos rectores de esa institución que reconsideren los requisitos de acceso y no echen sobre las espaldas de jóvenes licenciados la pesada carga de los recursos judiciales, cuya sentencia pueden conocer muchos años después, habiendo perdido su finalidad el recurso.

Por ello me permito insistir:

1. ¿No considera la Comisión que la discriminación por razones de sexo en el estudio, formación e investigación de futuros profesionales contradice la tendencia que marcan las instituciones europeas, entre otros muchos documentos, en su Programa Europa 2020?

2. ¿No podría parecer incoherente que el Derecho comunitario europeo insista en que se sienten en los consejos de administración de las empresas privadas mujeres y se desatienda que una institución de estudio e investigación las excluya de su programa de becas? ¿Por qué ha de cuidarse solo la igualdad de género en las cúpulas directivas de las empresas privadas y no atender a que todo proceso de formación garantice la igualdad de trato?

Respuesta de la Sra. Vassiliou en nombre de la Comisión
(25 de octubre de 2013)

La Comisión está comprometida con la defensa del principio de igualdad, lo que incluye la igualdad entre los sexos. A iniciativa de la Comisión, la Unión Europea ha adoptado un marco jurídico sólido de protección contra la discriminación en el empleo, que afecta también a la formación profesional.

Sin embargo, la Comisión desearía recordar que incumbe en primer lugar a los órganos jurisdiccionales nacionales y al Tribunal de Justicia garantizar la plena aplicación de la legislación de la Unión Europea en todos los Estados miembros, así como proporcionar la tutela judicial de los derechos que el Derecho comunitario confiere a los justiciables (véase, en este sentido, el asunto C-432/05 *Unibet* [2007] Rec. I-2271, apartado 38 y jurisprudencia citada). La Comisión, en el marco de la misión que le confiere el artículo 258 del TFUE, carece de autoridad para realizar recomendaciones sobre el cumplimiento de los requisitos de la legislación de la UE para personas físicas o jurídicas, dado que, con arreglo a dicho artículo, solamente puede ejercer sus competencias en relación con los Estados miembros.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010205/13
to the Commission
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Royal College of Spain in Bologna (Italy)

In response to my question on discriminatory access to the grants offered by the Royal College of Spain in Bologna on grounds of gender, nationality or belief (E-007189/2013), the Commission referred me to the courts. Spanish judges and courts do of course have jurisdiction and competences to analyse the incompatibility of this College's Statutes with EC law. However, I addressed the Commission because I believe that, in view of its functions as set out in Article 17(1) of the Lisbon Treaty, it could suggest more effectively that the governing bodies of this institution reconsider the access requirements and ensure that young graduates do not have to bear the burden of legal redress, which may not bear fruit for many years, by which time it will no longer be relevant.

Therefore, I must stress:

1. Does the Commission not consider that discrimination on grounds of gender in the education, training and research of future professionals contradicts the trend highlighted by the European institutions in their Europe 2020 Programme, and many other documents?

2. Could it not seem inconsistent that EC law insists that women should sit on the boards of directors of private companies while a research and education establishment is allowed to exclude them from its grant scheme? Why does gender equality only have to be maintained in the management of private companies while training processes are not expected to guarantee equal treatment?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

The Commission is committed to the principle of equality, including gender equality. It was at the initiative of the Commission that the European Union adopted a solid legal framework protecting against discrimination in employment, including concerning vocational training.

However, the Commission would recall that it is primarily for the national courts and tribunals and for the Court of Justice to ensure the full application of European Union law in all Member States and to ensure judicial protection of an individual's rights under that law (see, to that effect, Case C-432/05 *Unibet* [2007] ECR I-2271, paragraph 38 and case-law cited). Within the framework of the mission entrusted to it by Article 258 TFEU, the Commission has no authority to make recommendations on compliance with EC law requirements to natural or legal persons, given that its powers under the said article can only be exercised in relation to Member States.

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-010206/13
til Kommissionen
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)
(12. september 2013)

Om: Manglende godkendelse af energiforlig

Et bredt flertal i det danske Folketing vedtog i marts 2012 et ambitiøst energiforlig, som bl.a. skulle hæve afregningsprisen for biogas til 1,15 DKK og dermed sikre rentabiliteten i den danske biogassektor.

Da Kommissionen tre gange har stillet supplerende spørgsmål til ordningen, er ca. 40 projekter ifølge Energistyrelsen gået i stå. Dette gælder både nye anlæg og udvidelser af eksisterende anlæg.

1. Er Kommissionen bevidst om, at den i alvorlig grad er med til at bremse udviklingen i en betydningsfuld og ansvarsfuld energibranche?

2. Mener Kommissionen, at det er hensigtsmæssigt over for medarbejdere og bestyrelser i eksisterende biogasanlæg at forhindre vækst i stedet for at skabe tiltrængt vækst i bygge- og energisektoren i Europa?

3. Kan Kommissionen venligst forklare, hvorfor det skal tage så lang tid at træffe en afgørelse?

4. Hvornår kan den danske biogassektor og de mange relaterede industrier forvente en endelig afgørelse fra Kommissionen?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Joaquín Almunia
(24. oktober 2013)

De danske myndigheder har underrettet Kommissionen om en støtteordning for anvendelse af biogas, der markant ændrer den støttemekanisme, som allerede foreligger, og som tidligere er blevet godkendt af Kommissionen [N356/2008].

Medlemsstaterne kan yde statsstøtte til produktion af el fra biogas, så længe bestemmelserne i retningslinjerne for statsstøtte til miljøbeskyttelse opfyldes. Kommissionen skal vurdere ordningens nye elementer — hvoraf nogle kan give komplekse tekniske problemer — for at kunne sikre, at støtten, som ydes, ikke forvrider konkurrencevilkårene i et omfang, der strider mod de fælles interesser.

Kommissionen foretager p.t. sin vurdering i fællesskab med de danske myndigheder, for snarest muligt at kunne skabe retssikkerhed. Afhængigt af, hvordan vurderingen skrider frem, vil en afgørelse kunne vedtages før årets udgang.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010206/13
to the Commission
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: No approval of an energy agreement

In March 2012, by a large majority, the Danish Parliament adopted an ambitious energy agreement which *inter alia* would raise the price of biogas to DKK 1.15, thus ensuring the profitability of the Danish biogas sector.

On three occasions the Commission has submitted additional questions about the scheme, and as a result, according to the Danish Energy Agency, some 40 projects have come to a halt. Both new plants and extensions to existing installations are affected.

1. Is the Commission aware that it is seriously curbing development in what is a significant and responsible energy sector?

2. Does the Commission consider it proper, vis-à-vis the staff and management of existing biogas plants, to impede growth instead of creating it, which is what is needed, in the construction and sectors in Europe?

3. Can the Commission explain why it should take so long to make a decision?

4. When can the Danish biogas sector and the many related industries expect a final decision by the Commission?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(24 October 2013)

The Danish authorities have notified a support scheme for biogas to the Commission that significantly changes the previous support mechanism that had been in place, and which had been approved by the Commission in the past [N356/2008].

State aid for electricity production from biogas can be granted by Member States provided it complies with the provisions of the Environmental Aid Guidelines. The Commission must assess compliance of the novel elements of the scheme — some of which raise complex technical issues — in order to ensure that the aid granted does not distort competition to an extent contrary to the common interest.

The Commission is carrying out this assessment in cooperation with the Danish authorities in order to provide legal certainty as quickly as possible. Depending on the progress of this assessment, a decision could be adopted before the end of the year.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-010207/13
aan de Raad
Auke Zijlstra (NI)
(12 september 2013)

Betreft: SWIFT volgens Europese normen

De huidige tekst van de overeenkomst tussen de Europese Unie en de Verenigde Staten van Amerika inzake de verwerking en doorgifte van gegevens betreffende het financiële berichtenverkeer van de Europese Unie naar de Verenigde Staten ten behoeve van het programma voor het traceren van terrorismefinanciering werd aangenomen in 2010. Sindsdien zijn er verschillende problemen met betrekking tot de rechtszekerheid aan het licht gekomen.

1. Wat is het standpunt van de Raad ten aanzien van deze controversiële overeenkomst?

2. Hoe kunnen de rechtszekerheid en de privacy van EU-burgers worden gewaarborgd als er geen voorafgaande rechterlijke uitspraak is vereist voor de doorgifte van gegevens, en er geen juridische beroepsmogelijkheden zijn?

3. Bereidt de Raad een evaluatie van de bovengenoemde overeenkomst voor om de juridische kwesties die sinds de inwerkintreding daarvan aan het licht zijn gekomen te bespreken?

4. Is de Raad voornemens de huidige overeenkomst te wijzigen zodat de Verenigde Staten ertoe zullen worden verplicht aan de Europese normen op dit vlak te voldoen?

Antwoord
(25 november 2013)

De Raad wacht momenteel op het derde verslag over het functioneren van de TFTP-overeenkomst dat door de Commissie wordt opgesteld. Hij heeft de andere aangelegenheden die in de vraag aan de orde worden gesteld, niet besproken.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010207/13
to the Council
Auke Zijlstra (NI)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: SWIFT under European standards

The current text of the Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on the processing and transfer of financial messaging data from the EU to the USA for the purposes of the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme was adopted in 2010; several issues relating to legal certainty have since come to light.

1. Can the Council share its position on this controversial agreement?

2. How is the legal certainty and privacy of EU citizens guaranteed, if there is no requirement for a prior judicial ruling for the transfer of data, and no legal redress available?

3. Is the Council preparing any kind of evaluation of the aforementioned agreement in order to discuss the legal issues that have come to light since its entry into force?

4. Is the Council planning to alter the current agreement so that the USA will be forced to comply with European standards in this field?

Reply
(25 November 2013)

The Council is currently waiting for the third report on the functioning of the TFTP Agreement to be prepared by the Commission. It has not discussed the other issues referred to in the question.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010208/13
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante)
Sandrine Bélier (Verts/ALE), Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE) y Eva Joly (Verts/ALE)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: VP/HR — Protección de un parque natural en Guinea-Bisáu

El parque nacional Varela de Guinea-Bisáu está situado en la costa atlántica cerca de la frontera con Senegal, frente a las islas Boloma Bijagós, que han estado bajo la protección de la Unesco como reserva de la biosfera desde 1996 ([1]). El parque, habitado por los djolas, está caracterizado por la diversidad de sus ecosistemas.

Los djolas, el parque y las plantas y los animales que lo habitan están actualmente en peligro debido a la riqueza mineral de la zona. Empresas chinas ya han declarado su interés en la explotación de los yacimientos de petróleo que se espera encontrar en la costa, y la última amenaza para los djolas es la presencia actual de empresas rusas en el parque para explorar el potencial de explotación de varios minerales, entre los que hay algunos radiactivos.

La Comisión ha declarado recientemente que era consciente de la situación gracias a sus relaciones con la sociedad civil en Guinea-Bisáu, pero ha indicado que no podrá tomar medidas porque la UE no reconoce al gobierno de transición del país.

1. ¿Planteará la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante la cuestión de la integridad del parque nacional Varela, y el desarrollo sostenible de los territorios de los djolas en su diálogo con las autoridades de Guinea-Bisáu?

2. ¿Adoptará la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante una posición formal ante la asamblea parlamentaria conjunta ACP-UE acerca de la necesidad de proteger el parque?

3. ¿Recurrirá la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante a la Unesco para organizar una misión de investigación para determinar las medidas más apropiadas que se deben tomar, tales como el reconocimiento del parque como sitio natural incluido en el patrimonio mundial o como reserva de la biosfera, y posiblemente incluirlo en la reserva de la biosfera de las islas Boloma Bijagós?

Respuesta de la alta representante y vicepresidenta Ashton en nombre de la Comisión
(8 de noviembre de 2013)

Tal y como se indicó en la respuesta que facilitó este junio último la Comisión sobre el problema del parque nacional Varela, la UE y, por tanto, la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta no mantienen diálogo alguno con las autoridades de Guinea-Bisáu porque la Unión no las reconoce, ya que no han sido nombradas mediante un proceso democrático.

No obstante, la UE siente inquietud por la situación medioambiental de Guinea-Bisáu, por lo que nuestra Delegación en el país está siguiendo de cerca la cuestión (dicha Delegación ha contratado a un experto en biodiversidad y recursos naturales para que facilite una descripción global de la situación).

La UE ha venido proporcionado apoyo a la protección medioambiental en Guinea-Bisáu desde 2005, centrándose especialmente en sus parques nacionales. Gracias a su decidida participación, junto con todas las comunidades locales, el 24 % del territorio nacional está actualmente cubierto por siete zonas protegidas. Hasta donde sabe la Comisión, no se ha creado aun oficialmente ningún parque nacional en la zona de Varela.

Pese a que, por el momento, la UE no puede plantear oficialmente a las autoridades esta cuestión, sí que lo ha hecho ante otros socios, tales como la representación local de las Naciones Unidas y el Representante Especial del Secretario General de la ONU para Guinea-Bisáu, el excelentísimo señor Ramos-Horta, así como ante la sociedad civil. La UE seguirá ejerciendo presión diplomática sobre esta cuestión.

Cuando asuma el poder un gobierno legítimo, la UE se asegurará de que se incluya en el diálogo político la protección de los recursos naturales.

([1]) http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/africa/guinea-bissau/boloma-bijagos/

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010208/13
à la Commission (Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante)
Sandrine Bélier (Verts/ALE), Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE) et Eva Joly (Verts/ALE)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: VP/HR — Protection du parc national de Varela, en Guinée-Bissau

Le parc national de Varela se situe en Guinée-Bissau, sur la côte atlantique, près de la frontière sénégalaise et face à l'archipel des Bijagós, placé depuis 1996 sous la protection de l'Unesco en tant que réserve de biosphère ([1]). Habité par des populations diola, le parc se caractérise par la diversité de ses écosystèmes.

Les Diolas, le parc, ainsi que la faune et la flore locales se trouvent actuellement menacés du fait de la présence d'abondantes ressources minières dans la région. Certaines sociétés chinoises ont déjà exprimé le souhait d'exploiter les gisements de pétrole susceptibles de se trouver au large des côtes, tandis que des entreprises russes prospectent actuellement sur le terrain afin de déterminer le potentiel minier du parc pour l'extraction de plusieurs minerais, y compris radioactifs, ajoutant aux menaces qui pèsent sur les populations diola.

La Commission a récemment indiqué qu'elle avait eu connaissance de la situation grâce à ses relations avec la société civile en Guinée-Bissau, mais a déclaré qu'elle ne pouvait agir, l'Union européenne ne reconnaissant pas le gouvernement de transition à la tête du pays.

Nous posons par conséquent à la vice-présidente et haute représentante de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité les questions suivantes:

1. Soulèvera-t-elle la question de la préservation du parc national de Varela et du développement durable des territoires habités par les Diolas dans le cadre de son dialogue avec les autorités de Guinée-Bissau?

2. Adoptera-t-elle une position officielle devant l'Assemblée parlementaire paritaire ACP-UE sur la nécessité de protéger le parc?

3. Invitera-t-elle l'Unesco à organiser une mission d'étude visant à déterminer les mesures les plus adaptées à cette fin, telles que l'inscription du parc sur la liste du patrimoine mondial en tant que bien naturel ou sa désignation comme réserve de biosphère, et éventuellement son inclusion dans la réserve de biosphère de l'archipel des Bijagós?

Réponse donnée par M^me Ashton, Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante au nom de la Commission
(8 novembre 2013)

Comme l'indiquait la Commission dans sa réponse de juin dernier portant sur le parc national de Varela, l'UE, et donc également la Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante, n'a pas établi de dialogue avec les autorités de Guinée-Bissau qu'elle ne reconnaît pas étant donné qu'elles n'ont pas été désignées dans le cadre d'un processus démocratique.

Toutefois, l'Union s'intéresse à la situation environnementale en Guinée-Bissau et notre délégation dans le pays suit de près ce dossier (un expert en matière de biodiversité et de ressources naturelles a été recruté par la délégation de l'UE pour faire un bilan complet de la situation).

L'UE soutient la protection de l'environnement en Guinée-Bissau depuis 2005, en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur les parcs nationaux. Cette forte implication, conjuguée à l'engagement de l'ensemble des communautés locales, a permis d'instaurer 7 zones protégées qui couvrent désormais 24 % du territoire national. À la connaissance de l'UE, aucun parc national n'a jusqu'à présent été officiellement créé dans la région de Varela.

Bien que cette question ne puisse pas être évoquée officiellement avec les autorités à ce stade, l'UE l'a abordée avec d'autres partenaires, parmi lesquels la représentation locale de l'ONU et le représentant spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations unies pour la Guinée-Bissau, S.E. M. Ramos-Horta, ainsi qu'avec la société civile. L'UE continuera d'exercer des pressions diplomatiques dans ce domaine.

Par ailleurs, lorsqu'un gouvernement légitime sera au pouvoir, l'UE veillera à ce que la protection des ressources naturelles soit intégrée dans le dialogue politique.

([1]) http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5081/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010208/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sandrine Bélier (Verts/ALE), Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE) and Eva Joly (Verts/ALE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Protection of national park in Guinea-Bissau

The Varela National Park in Guinea-Bissau is situated on the Atlantic coast near the Senegal border facing the Boloma Bijagos islands, which have been under Unesco protection as a biosphere reserve since 1996 ([1]). The park, which is inhabited by the Djola people, is characterised by the diversity of its ecosystems.

The Djolas, the park and the plants and animals in it are currently under threat because of the area's mineral wealth. Chinese companies have already declared an interest in exploiting oil deposits expected to be found off the coast, and the latest threat to the Djolas is the current presence of Russian companies in the park to explore the mining potential of several minerals, including radioactive ones.

The Commission has recently stated that it was aware of the situation through its relations with civil society in Guinea-Bissau, but has declared that it could not take action because the EU does not recognise the country's transitional government.

We therefore ask the Vice-President/High Representative the following:

1. Will she raise the issue of the Varela National Park's integrity, and the sustainable development of the territories of the Djola people, in her dialogue with the Guinea-Bissau authorities?

2. Will she take a formal position before the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly on the need to the safeguard the park?

3. Will she call on Unesco to organise a fact-finding mission aimed at identifying the most appropriate measures to take, such as recognition of the park as a natural world heritage site or biosphere reserve, and possibly including it in the Boloma Bijagos islands biosphere reserve?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(8 November 2013)

As indicated in the reply provided last June by the Commission on the issue of the Varela National Park, the EU, and therefore also the HR/VP, does not have a dialogue with the Guinea-Bissau authorities, because they are not recognised by the EU, as they were not designated through a democratic process.

However, the EU is concerned with the environmental situation in Guinea Bissau and our Delegation in the country is closely following the issue (an expert on biodiversity and natural resources has been recruited by the EU Delegation to provide a comprehensive description of the situation).

The EU has provided support for environmental protection in Guinea Bissau since 2005, focusing in particular on its national parks. Thanks to this strong involvement, along with all the local communities, 24% of the national territory is now covered by 7 protected areas. As far as the EU is aware, no national park has officially been created yet in the area of Varela.

Although this issue cannot at this stage be formally raised with the authorities, the EU has raised it with other partners such as the local UN representation and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Guinea-Bissau, H.E. Mr Ramos-Horta, as well as with the civil society. The EU will continue to exercise diplomatic pressure on this matter.

Once a legitimate government is in power, the EU will also ensure that the protection of natural resources is included in the political dialogue.

([1]) http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/africa/guinea-bissau/boloma-bijagos.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010209/13
alla Commissione
Francesco Enrico Speroni (EFD)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Limite di acquisto presso i punti vendita Louis Vuitton

Nei propri negozi la società di moda Louis Vuitton limiterebbe a un numero di unità predefinito la vendita dei propri prodotti per singolo cliente (nello specifico, borse da donna).

Può la Commissione confermare l'esistenza di una tale pratica?

Ritiene che tale limite sia compatibile con le vigenti normative europee, con i principi del libero mercato e della concorrenza e con le leggi che regolano l'offerta al pubblico di prodotti esposti in libera vendita?

Conferma che, in fase produttiva, le politiche commerciali di Louis Vuitton si contraddistinguono per un'accentuata apertura a risorse globali, per il ricorso a procedure internazionali di delocalizzazione produttiva e per la variazione anche sensibile del prezzo di offerta finale dei propri prodotti in base al mercato finale di vendita?

Ritiene che sia legittima l'applicazione di una misura che, limitando i vantaggi offerti dalle procedure di globalizzazione economica e produttiva internazionale alla sola società produttrice, impedisce di fatto l'acquisto di un prodotto in un mercato ove tale prodotto sia offerto al consumatore a costo più vantaggioso per lo stesso?

Ritiene che tale disposizione, ove confermata, debba essere considerata come protezionistica e dunque vietata ai sensi dell'ordinamento vigente?

Ritiene infine di dover aprire un'opportuna indagine in merito?

Risposta data dal Vicepresidente Joaquín Almunia a nome della Commissione
(24 ottobre 2013)

La Commissione è consapevole del fatto che i produttori di beni di lusso adottino spesso una politica che prevede prezzi diversi a seconda dei paesi in cui si effettuano le vendite. Per garantire che questa strategia non venga compromessa da grandi volumi di importazioni parallele, gli stessi produttori possono adottare misure volte a contingentare le attività degli importatori, ad esempio limitando il volume delle merci che possono essere vendute a un unico acquirente.

Se un produttore non è in posizione dominante, il fatto che simili pratiche violino o meno le regole dell'UE sulla concorrenza dipende, in genere, dai due fattori principali:

— se la discriminazione sulla base dei prezzi avvenga tra l'UE e paesi terzi, o invece tra Stati membri dell'UE, e

— se il produttore in questione è proprietario dei propri punti vendita, o al contrario vende la propria merce tramite un sistema di distribuzione costituito da imprese indipendenti.

Per quanto riguarda il primo fattore, le regole unionali relative alla concorrenza non si applicano se le pratiche in questione hanno poca o nessuna incidenza sugli scambi tra Stati membri dell'Unione europea — ad esempio, se la discriminazione in materia di prezzi coinvolge Giappone e UE.

Per quanto riguarda il secondo aspetto, l'articolo 101 del trattato (che è stato spesso utilizzato nel caso di produttori che limitano il commercio parallelo) si applica solo quando il comportamento in questione avviene nel quadro di un accordo tra imprese indipendenti. Nel caso in cui i prodotti in questione siano distribuiti attraverso punti vendita appartenenti al produttore stesso dei beni di lusso, l'articolo 101 non si applica poiché il limite posto al numero di articoli che possono essere venduti a un singolo acquirente non sorge da un accordo ma è stato imposto unilateralmente.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010209/13
to the Commission
Francesco Enrico Speroni (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Limit on purchases made in Louis Vuitton stores

The fashion company Louis Vuitton has reportedly set a limit on the number of its products (in particular women's handbags) that individual customers may purchase in its stores.

Can the Commission confirm that such a practice exists?

Does it believe that this limit is compatible with current EU legislation, with the principles of the free market and competition, and with the laws governing the supply of goods on open sale to the public?

Can it confirm that Louis Vuitton's business policies in the production phase are characterised by the extensive use of global resources, by recourse to international relocation procedures and by an at times considerable variation in the final price of the company's goods depending on the market in which they are ultimately sold?

Does it consider it legitimate to apply a measure that, by only allowing the producer to benefit from procedures based on economic globalisation and globalisation of production, actually prevents goods from being purchased in a market in which they are offered to consumers at a more favourable price?

Does it believe that this measure, if confirmed, should be deemed protectionist and hence prohibited under current legislation?

Lastly, does it believe it should launch an appropriate investigation into the matter?

Answer given by Vice-President Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(24 October 2013)

The Commission is aware that producers of luxury goods often sell at different prices in different countries. To ensure that this strategy is not frustrated by large volumes of parallel imports, they may take measures to curtail importers' activities, for instance by limiting the volume of goods that may be sold to a single purchaser.

If a producer is not in a dominant position, the question as to whether or not these practices may breach the EU competition rules generally depends on two main factors:

— whether the price discrimination takes place between the EU and third countries, or rather between EU Member States, and

— whether the producer in question owns its own outlets, or rather sells through a distribution system made up of independent firms.

As to the first factor, the EU competition rules do not apply if the practices have little or no impact on trade between EU Member States — for instance, if the price discrimination takes place between Japan and the EU.

As to the second aspect, Article 101 of the Treaty (which has often been used when producers restrict parallel trade) only applies when the behaviour in question takes place within the framework of an agreement between independent firms. Where the products in question are distributed through a luxury goods producer's own outlets, Article 101 will not apply, since the limit on the number of items that may be sold to a single buyer will not arise from an agreement, but instead will have been unilaterally imposed.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010210/13
alla Commissione
Francesco Enrico Speroni (EFD) e Giancarlo Scottà (EFD)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Costo della procedura di risposta alle interrogazioni parlamentari

La Commissione conosce o ha avuto modo di verificare il costo medio della procedura di risposta ad una singola interrogazione parlamentare? Qual è la percentuale complessiva della spesa per le interrogazioni parlamentari rispetto al bilancio della Commissione?

Risposta di Maroš Šefčovič a nome della Commissione
(30 ottobre 2013)

Gli onorevoli parlamentari sono pregati di far riferimento alla risposta della Commissione all'interrogazione scritta E-7064/13 (punto 4).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010210/13
to the Commission
Francesco Enrico Speroni (EFD) and Giancarlo Scottà (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Cost of the procedure for answering parliamentary questions

Does the Commission know, or has it been able to check, the average cost of the procedure for answering a single parliamentary question? What percentage of the Commission's budget is spent in total on parliamentary questions?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(30 October 2013)

The Honourable Members are referred to the Commission's answer to Written Question E-7064/13 (point 4).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010211/13
alla Commissione
Francesco Enrico Speroni (EFD)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Imposta su prodotti e attività finanziarie in ambito UE, incompatibilità della legge italiana 214/2011 con la normativa comunitaria

In data 16 gennaio 2013 l'interrogante presentava alla Commissione europea l'interrogazione n. P-000432/2013 tesa ad accertare eventuali profili d'incompatibilità rispetto alla normativa comunitaria della legge italiana n. 214/2011.

La Commissione europea replicava all'interrogante (P-000432/2013) rilevando che avrebbe approfondito l'esame della questione sottopostagli al fine di stabilire se le differenze tra l'IVAFE e l'imposta di bollo configurassero di fatto una violazione del diritto dell'UE, in particolare del principio di libera circolazione dei capitali.

Ha la Commissione concluso tale approfondimento? Qual è stato l'esito di tale verifica? Può dare una risposta conclusiva all'interrogazione P-000432/2013?

Risposta di Algirdas Šemeta a nome della Commissione
(25 ottobre 2013)

Facendo seguito alla risposta all'interrogazione P-000432/2013, la Commissione conferma di aver esaminato la legislazione italiana in vigore riguardante l'IVAFE e l'imposta di bollo.

L'analisi ha indicato che sussistono alcuni dubbi sulla compatibilità con il diritto dell'Unione della legislazione sull'IVAFE. Di conseguenza, le autorità italiane sono state invitate a trasmettere la loro posizione in merito e a indicare la loro disponibilità a modificare le disposizioni pertinenti.

Nella loro risposta del luglio 2013, le autorità italiane hanno indicato di aver avviato la procedura amministrativa per allineare le disposizioni pertinenti con il diritto dell'UE.

In settembre 2013 i servizi della Commissione hanno chiesto alle autorità italiane di presentare una bozza dei testi che saranno adottati e un calendario per la loro entrata in vigore.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010211/13
to the Commission
Francesco Enrico Speroni (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Tax on financial products and activities in the EU — incompatibility of Italian Law No 214/2011 with EU legislation

On 16 January 2013 this author submitted question P-000432/2013 to the Commission with a view to establishing whether Italian Law No 214/2011 is in any way incompatible with EU legislation.

The Commission stated in its answer (P-000432/2013) that it would investigate the issue further in order to establish whether the differences between the IVAFE and the 'bollo' effectively constitute a violation of EC law, and in particular a violation of the principle of free movement of capital.

Has the Commission concluded this investigation? What was the outcome? Can it provide a definitive answer to question P-000432/2013?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

Further to the answer to Question P-000432/2013, the Commission confirms that it has investigated the Italian legislation in force concerning the IVAFE and the 'bollo'.

The analysis indicated that there are some doubts as to the compatibility with EC law of the legislation on IVAFE. Accordingly, the Italian authorities were requested to transmit their position on the issue and to indicate their willingness to modify the relevant provisions.

In their reply in July 2013, the Italian authorities indicated that they have initiated the administrative procedure to align the relevant provisions with EC law.

In September 2013, the Commission services requested that the Italian authorities submit a draft of the texts that will be adopted and a timetable for their entry into force.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010212/13
alla Commissione
Alfredo Pallone (PPE), Aldo Patriciello (PPE), Gino Trematerra (PPE), Fabrizio Bertot (PPE) e Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Progettazione e costruzione della tangente nord ad alta velocità di Sofia con fondi europei

Lo scorso 29.4.2013 la JV Salini — Impregilo, dopo aver partecipato a una procedura di gara aperta con il criterio dell'offerta economicamente più vantaggiosa per la progettazione e costruzione della tangente nord ad alta velocità di Sofia, in Bulgaria (dal km 0+000 al km 16 +540), aveva ricevuto la comunicazione di aggiudicazione (Decisione AIS № 52/29.4.2013) dall'Agenzia bulgara per le infrastrutture stradali (AIS) per il miglior punteggio ottenuto in base alla proposta tecnica e ai tempi realizzativi previsti.

A seguito di impugnazione da parte di due degli altri partecipanti, la PorrBau GmbH (Austria) e il Consorzio HPVS-SST (Bulgaria), il 19.6.2013 la commissione per la tutela della concorrenza (CTC) dichiarava accolto l'appello del Consorzio HPVS-SST squalificando la JV Salini-Impregilo in base all'asserita mancanza dei seguenti requisiti di gara:

— dimostrazione che l'esperienza degli specialisti proposti per le posizioni di responsabile del progetto e vice responsabile del progetto equivale alla laurea magistrale in «Costruzioni di Trasporto/Ingegneria»;

— dimostrazione dell'esperienza di lavoro richiesta per la posizione di coordinatore per la salute e la sicurezza.

L'impresa sostiene di aver fornito tutta la documentazione richiesta per provare l'esistenza dei requisiti.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. È vero che la realizzazione dell'infrastruttura in oggetto verrà eseguita con fondi provenienti dal bilancio dell'Unione europea?

2. Se così fosse e visti i sospetti di illegittimità nelle decisioni dell'Agenzia bulgara per le infrastrutture stradali (AIS) in questa vicenda, quali controlli di audit intende porre in essere per garantire un corretto, efficace ed efficiente utilizzo dei fondi europei?

3. Inoltre, ritiene la Commissione che le direttive europee in materia di appalti pubblici siano state violate visto che sembrano disattesi i principi di trasparenza e non discriminazione?

4. Ritiene infine che anche il diritto europeo in materia di qualifiche professionali sia stato violato visto che è stato negato il riconoscimento di professionisti dotati di tutte le caratteristiche richieste?

Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione
(5 novembre 2013)

Il cofinanziamento unionale del progetto della tangente nord ad alta velocità di Sofia è previsto nel contesto del programma di sviluppo regionale bulgaro. Trattandosi però di un grande progetto l'investimento è subordinato alla valutazione e all'approvazione della Commissione e si è ancora in attesa della sua presentazione formale da parte della Bulgaria. Soltanto in seguito a una valutazione positiva da parte della Commissione potrà essere confermato un eventuale cofinanziamento dell'UE.

Nel contesto della gestione concorrente la Commissione svolge un ruolo di supervisione e si limita ad accertare che i sistemi di gestione e di controllo posti in atto negli Stati membri siano conformi alla legislazione dell'UE. A tal fine essa verifica regolarmente il funzionamento effettivo di tali sistemi. La Commissione effettua un audit su un contratto specifico soltanto ex-post, dopo la firma del contratto ed il completamento di tutte le procedure pertinenti a livello nazionale. La Commissione, qualora riscontri irregolarità in una procedura d'appalto cofinanziata, procede agli appropriati interventi correttivi tra cui rientra anche la possibilità di cancellare, in toto o in parte, la sovvenzione dell'UE ove ciò sia ritenuto necessario.

Dalle informazioni di cui dispone la Commissione su questo caso particolare emerge che, in seguito a un ricorso, la procedura d'appalto è stata rinviata per riesame. Finora però la Commissione non ha ricevuto informazioni dettagliate sulla procedura d'appalto in questione tali da consentirle di accertare se in questo caso siano state violate le procedure relative agli appalti pubblici e, in particolare, i principi di non discriminazione e trasparenza.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010212/13
to the Commission
Alfredo Pallone (PPE), Aldo Patriciello (PPE), Gino Trematerra (PPE), Fabrizio Bertot (PPE) and Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Design and construction of Sofia's high-speed northern bypass using European funds

On 29 April 2013, after participating in the open tender procedure and offering the most financially advantageous bid for designing and constructing Sofia's high-speed northern bypass (from 0+000 km to 16+540 km), the Salini-Impregilo joint venture had received notification of being awarded the contract (ARI Decision No 52/29.4.2013) by the Bulgarian Agency for Roads and Infrastructure (ARI) for the highest score achieved, based on the technical proposal and implementation times envisaged.

As a result of an appeal lodged by two of the other participants, Porr Bau GmbH (Austria) and the HPVS-SST consortium (Bulgaria), the Bulgarian Commission for the Protection of Competition (CPC) announced on 19 June 2013 that it upheld the appeal from the HPVS-SST consortium, while disqualifying the Salini-Impregilo joint venture based on its alleged failure to meet the following tender requirements:

— demonstrating that the experience of the specialists being put forward for the project manager and assistant project manager positions was equivalent to a master's degree in 'Transport construction/Engineering';

— demonstrating the necessary work experience for the position of health and safety coordinator.

The company maintains that it supplied all the necessary documentation to prove the requirements were met.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it true that the infrastructure in question will be constructed using funds coming from the European Union's budget?

2. If this is the case and given the suspected illegitimate nature of the decisions made by the Bulgarian Agency for Roads and Infrastructure (ARI) on this matter, what audit checks does the Commission intend to carry out to ensure that European funds are used properly, efficiently and effectively?

3. Furthermore, does the Commission believe that the European directives on public procurement have been infringed, given that the principles of transparency and non-discrimination seem to have been disregarded?

4. Finally, does it also believe that European law on professional qualifications has been infringed, given the refusal to recognise the specialists who have all the necessary attributes?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

EU co-financing of the Sofia high-speed northern bypass project is planned under the Bulgarian regional development programme. However, the investment is a major project subject to appraisal and approval by the Commission and the formal submission of this project by Bulgaria is currently pending. Only after a positive assessment by the Commission could any EU co-financing be confirmed.

Under shared management, the Commission plays a supervisory role by satisfying itself that the management and control systems in Member States are compliant with EU legislation. It does so by regularly verifying the effective functioning of these systems. A Commission audit of a specific contract would only be carried out *ex-post* following signature of the contract and completion of all related procedures at national level. Where the Commission detects irregularities in a co-financed tender procedure, appropriate corrective actions are applied, including possible cancellation of all or part of the EU grant if judged necessary.

The information available to the Commission about this particular case indicates that, following an appeal, the procurement procedure was sent back for re-evaluation. However, until now, the Commission has not received any detailed information related to the procurement procedure in question which would allow it to ascertain whether EU public procurement rules and in particular, the principles of non-discrimination and transparency have been infringed in this case.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010213/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Obstacles, frontières et charges handicapant la libre circulation

Dans ce cadre, nous ne pouvons que regretter que la proportionnalité soit rarement évaluée.

La Commission pourrait-elle préciser la notion de proportionnalité?

La Commission pourrait-elle publier des orientations pratiques à l'intention des États membres sur les modalités de son application, se fondant sur la jurisprudence en vigueur de la Cour de justice?

Réponse donnée par M^{me} Reding au nom de la Commission
(5 novembre 2013)

La proportionnalité, en tant que principe général du droit de l'Union, joue un rôle central en ce qui concerne la libre circulation des personnes, et elle a été utilisée de façon constante comme critère par la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne en vue d'évaluer si une mesure nationale ayant une incidence négative sur le droit à la libre circulation des citoyens de l'Union et fondée sur des considérations objectives d'intérêt général indépendantes de la nationalité des personnes concernées est appropriée pour atteindre l'objectif visé et ne va pas au-delà de ce qui est nécessaire à la réalisation dudit objectif.

En particulier, comme la libre circulation des personnes constitue un droit fondamental conféré aux citoyens de l'Union par le traité, elle doit être interprétée de manière stricte, et les mesures restrictives ne peuvent se justifier que si elles respectent le principe de proportionnalité. Ce dernier imprègne l'application des règles établies par la directive 2004/38/CE relative au droit des citoyens de l'Union et des membres de leurs familles de circuler et de séjourner librement sur le territoire des États membres, comme le montrent notamment les références figurant au considérant 16 et à l'article 27, paragraphe 2, de cette directive.

La Commission a publié des lignes directrices destinées à améliorer la transposition et l'application de la directive 2004/38/CE ([1]) en se fondant sur la jurisprudence de la Cour de justice. Dans ces lignes directrices, elle a énoncé en détail les modalités d'examen du critère de proportionnalité lorsque les États membres déterminent si un citoyen de l'Union est devenu une charge déraisonnable pour le système d'assistance sociale et lorsqu'ils envisagent des mesures restrictives pour des raisons d'ordre public ou de sécurité publique.

([1]) COM(2009) 313, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0313:FIN:FR:PDF

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010213/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Obstacles, borders and charges impeding freedom of movement

It is regrettable that proportionality is only rarely evaluated in respect of the above.

Could the Commission clarify the principle of proportionality?

Could the Commission publish practical guidance for the Member States on the arrangements for application of this principle on the basis of ECJ case law?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

Proportionality, as a general principle of EC law, plays a central role with regards to free movement of people and has been consistently used by the Court of Justice of the European Union as a test in order to evaluate whether a national measure negatively affecting EU citizens' free movement rights and based on objective considerations of public interest independent of the nationality of the persons concerned, is appropriate to achieve the objective pursued and does not go beyond what is necessary in order to attain that objective.

In particular, as free movement of persons is a fundamental right conferred to EU citizens by the Treaty, any derogation must be interpreted strictly and restrictive measures may only be justified if they respect the principle of proportionality. This principle therefore permeates the application of the rules of Directive 2004/38 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, as illustrated notably in the references made in Recital 16 and Article 27(2) of this directive.

The Commission has issued guidelines for better transposition and application of Directive 2004/38 ([1]) based on relevant case-law of the Court of Justice. In these guidelines it has set down in detail criteria for carrying out this proportionality test where Members States assess whether an EU citizen has become an unreasonable burden on their social assistance system and where they envisage restrictive measures on grounds of public policy or security.

([1]) COM(2009) 313. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0313:FIN:EN:PDF

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010214/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Guichets uniques

La Commission a-t-elle des pistes pour moderniser les guichets uniques, par exemple en les faisant évoluer vers la deuxième génération afin d'en faire des portails d'administration en ligne pleinement fonctionnels, plurilingues et faciles d'utilisation?

La Commission partage-t-elle l'avis selon lequel il importe d'adopter une approche relative aux prestataires de services qui couvre l'ensemble du cycle économique?

La Commission estime-t-elle que les procédures électroniques renforceront la simplification, réduiront les coûts de mise en conformité et amélioreront la sécurité juridique?

La Commission pourrait-elle définir des critères de comparaison précis pour l'évaluation des guichets uniques, y compris des données sur leur niveau d'utilisation, et faire rapport régulièrement au Parlement sur les progrès enregistrés?

Réponse donnée par M. Barnier au nom de la Commission
(11 novembre 2013)

La Commission, en collaboration avec les États membres, a établi les critères applicables aux guichets uniques de deuxième génération sous la forme d'une charte des guichets uniques, qui a été approuvée le 3 juin 2013 par le groupe de haut niveau du Conseil «Compétitivité». La charte définit les principales caractéristiques d'un guichet unique convivial pour les entreprises et les critères d'évaluation de cet aspect. Ces critères concernent la qualité et la disponibilité de l'information, la disponibilité et l'accessibilité des procédures électroniques, y compris l'accessibilité pour les utilisateurs transfrontières, et la facilité d'utilisation. La Charte vise à ce que, tout au long du cycle de vie des entreprises, les guichets uniques répondent mieux aux besoins de celles-ci et leur facilitent la tâche. La première évaluation de la conformité à la charte des guichets uniques est prévue pour 2014.

L'article 8 de la directive «services» ([1]) impose aux États membres de veiller à ce que les prestataires de services puissent accomplir les procédures par voie électronique. Les travaux prévus par les orientations pour les télécommunications ([2]) dans le cadre du MIE ([3]), une fois celles-ci approuvées par le législateur, viseront à promouvoir le déploiement de services en ligne, contribuant à l'accomplissement transfrontière de procédures électroniques par l'intermédiaire de guichets uniques. Comme souligné dans l'examen annuel de la croissance en 2012 et en 2013, la Commission considère que la numérisation de l'administration publique contribue particulièrement à la croissance, étant donné que les procédures électroniques peuvent réduire les coûts pour les entreprises, engendrer des économies pour les administrations publiques et contribuer à la simplification administrative. Les États membres devraient revoir et moderniser leurs procédures avant de les mettre en ligne.

La Commission communique régulièrement des informations sur les guichets uniques ([4]). Le tableau de bord explique comment la comparaison a été réalisée et quels critères ont été appliqués pour évaluer les performances de ces guichets.

([1]) Directive 2006/123/CE du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 12 décembre 2006 relative aux services dans le marché intérieur.
([2]) COM(2013) 329.
([3]) Mécanisme pour l'interconnexion en Europe.
([4]) Par l'intermédiaire du tableau d'affichage du marché unique: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/scoreboard/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010214/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Points of single contact

Does the Commission have any plans to modernise the points of single contact, for example by bringing them up to second-generation standards so that they become fully functional online administration portals which are multilingual and user friendly?

Does the Commission agree that it is important to adopt a service provider strategy which covers the entire economic cycle?

Does the Commission believe that electronic procedures will promote administrative simplification, reduce compliance costs and increase legal certainty?

Could the Commission provide details of the comparison criteria used to evaluate points of single contact, including usage data, and make regular progress reports to Parliament?

Answer given by Mr. Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(11 November 2013)

Together with the Member States, the Commission has agreed on the criteria for the second generation Points of Single Contact (PSCs) in the form of the PSC Charter, which was endorsed by the High Level Group of the Competitiveness Council on 3 June 2013. The Charter sets out the key features and assessment criteria of a business friendly PSC. The criteria cover the quality and the availability of information, availability and accessibility of e-procedures, including accessibility for cross-border users, and usability. The Charter aims at moving towards PSCs that respond better to businesses' needs and make life easier for businesses taking into account the entire business life cycle. The first assessment of compliance with the PSC Charter is foreseen for 2014.

Under Article 8 of the Services Directive ([1]), Member States have an obligation to make the completion of procedures by electronic means available to the service providers. The work foreseen under CEF ([2]) Telecom Guidelines ([3]), once approved by the legislator, aims to support the deployment of online services thus contributing to the cross-border completion of e-procedures via PSCs. As highlighted in the Annual Growth Survey in 2012 and 2013, the Commission considers the digitalisation of public administration to be particular contributor to growth, as electronic procedures can reduce costs for businesses, generate savings for public administrations and contribute to administrative simplification. Member States should revise and modernise their procedures before putting them online.

The Commission provides regular reporting on the PSCs ([4]). In the Scoreboard an explanation is given on how the comparison was carried out and what criteria were applied to evaluate the performance of the PSCs.

([1]) Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market.
([2]) Connecting Europe Facility.
([3]) COM(2013) 329.
([4]) via the Single Market Scoreboard : http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/scoreboard/

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010215/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Mesures de protection des langues

La Commission compte-t-elle proposer des mesures concrètes de protection des langues menacées de disparition?

La Commission , dans le cadre des compétences que lui confère le traité, va-t-elle adapter les politiques de l'Union et prévoir des programmes pour soutenir la préservation des langues en danger et de la diversité linguistique au travers des outils de soutien financier de l'Union pour la période 2014-2020, notamment les programmes pour l'étude de ces langues, pour l'éducation et la formation, l'insertion sociale, la jeunesse et le sport, la recherche et le développement, les programmes Culture et MEDIA, les Fonds structurels (Fonds de cohésion, FEDER, FSE, coopération territoriale européenne, Feader), ainsi que tous les outils ouvrant aux nouvelles technologies, aux médias sociaux et aux plateformes multimédias, y compris, à cet égard, le soutien à la production tant de contenu que d'applications?

Ces outils ne devraient-ils pas être centrés sur des programmes et des initiatives qui affichent des ambitions culturelles ou économiques de grande envergure qui vont au-delà de leur communauté et de leur région?

La Commission va-t-elle lancer une réflexion sur les obstacles administratifs et législatifs auxquels sont soumis les projets relatifs à des langues en danger, du fait de la taille réduite des communautés linguistiques concernées?

Réponse donnée par M[me] Vassiliou au nom de la Commission
(15 octobre 2013)

La Commission est tout à fait consciente de la nécessité de protéger les langues européennes menacées de disparition, mais tient à souligner que la politique linguistique est une question qui relève de la compétence nationale. Conformément au principe de subsidiarité, elle travaille de concert avec les États membres et les parties intéressées à la réalisation d'objectifs communs non seulement dans ce domaine, mais aussi dans la sphère numérique.

Par ailleurs, la Commission coopère avec des organisations internationales telles que le Conseil de l'Europe en matière de politique linguistique. Son accord de coopération actuel est axé sur l'utilisation des technologies de l'information et de la communication (TIC) pour l'apprentissage des langues et l'évaluation des compétences linguistiques. Bien qu'il n'existe pas d'initiatives spécifiques visant à protéger et promouvoir les langues menacées de disparition, la Commission fait régulièrement référence à la charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires, l'instrument juridique international consacré à la protection et à la promotion des langues régionales ou minoritaires.

Dans le nouveau programme de financement pour l'éducation, la formation, la jeunesse et le sport, Erasmus +, les langues seront intégrées à tous les domaines du programme. Il sera donc possible de présenter une demande de financement pour des partenariats stratégiques dans le domaine des langues menacées de disparition. Lorsque les programmes «Erasmus +» et «Europe créative» seront entrés en vigueur, la Commission fournira des informations détaillées sur les possibilités de financement sur son site internet.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010215/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Protecting languages

Will the Commission be proposing concrete policy measures for the protection of endangered languages?

Within its terms of reference under the Treaty, will it adapt EU policies and schedule programmes so as to support the preservation of the endangered languages and linguistic diversity, using EU financial support tools for the period between 2014 and 2020, including programmes on documentation of these languages, as well as on education and training, social inclusion, youth and sport, research and development, the culture and media programme, the structural funds (cohesion fund, ERDF, ESF, European territorial cooperation, EARDF), and all instruments and exchange platforms designed to promote new technologies, social media, and multimedia platforms, encompassing support for the generation of both content and applications?

Should these tools not focus on programmes and actions that demonstrate a positive wider agenda, either culturally or economically, beyond their community and their region?

Will the Commission look into the administrative and legislative obstacles that are posed to projects relating to endangered languages on account of the small size of the language communities concerned?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(15 October 2013)

The Commission is well aware of the importance of protecting endangered European languages, but would like to underline that language policy is a matter of national competency. In line with the principle of subsidiarity it works with Member States and stakeholders towards achieving common objectives in this field, also in the digital sphere.

The Commission also cooperates with international organisations such as the Council of Europe on language policies. Its current cooperation agreement focuses on ICT in language learning and assessment of language competences. Although there are no specific initiatives to protect and promote endangered languages, the Commission regularly refers to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the international legal instrument specifically devoted to the protection and promotion of regional or minority languages.

In the new funding programme for education, training, youth and sport 'Erasmus+', languages will be mainstreamed across the programme. There will thus be opportunities to apply for funding for strategic partnerships in the field of endangered languages. Once the Erasmus+ and Creative Europe programmes enter into force, the Commission will provide detailed information on funding possibilities on its website.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010216/13
au Conseil
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Mesures de protection des langues

Le Conseil va-t-il, comme le lui demande le Parlement dans son rapport A7-0239/2013, dans le cadre des compétences que lui confère le traité, adapter les politiques de l'Union et prévoir des programmes pour soutenir la préservation des langues en danger et de la diversité linguistique au travers des outils de soutien financier de l'Union pour la période 2014-2020, notamment les programmes pour l'étude de ces langues, pour l'éducation et la formation, l'insertion sociale, la jeunesse et le sport, la recherche et le développement, les programmes Culture et MEDIA, les Fonds structurels (Fonds de cohésion, FEDER, FSE, coopération territoriale européenne, Feader), ainsi que tous les outils ouvrant aux nouvelles technologies, aux médias sociaux et aux plateformes multimédias, y compris, à cet égard, le soutien à la production tant de contenu que d'applications?

Réponse
(25 novembre 2013)

En ce qui concerne le contenu et les priorités de la nouvelle génération de programmes et d'instruments de l'Union européenne (2014-2020), l'Honorable Parlementaire n'est pas sans ignorer qu'ils ne sont pas déterminés par le seul Conseil, mais qu'ils sont dans la plupart des cas soumis à la procédure législative ordinaire dans laquelle le Parlement européen joue pleinement son rôle de colégislateur. La plupart des programmes sont maintenant en passe d'être mis au point et, dans un certain nombre de cas, les textes sur lesquels les colégislateurs se sont mis d'accord contiennent des dispositions qui portent spécifiquement sur la question de la diversité linguistique. Par exemple, le nouveau programme de soutien en faveur de la culture et des médias, le programme «Europe créative» 2014-2020, compte parmi ses objectifs la sauvegarde, le développement et la promotion de la diversité culturelle et linguistique européenne.

En ce qui concerne de manière plus générale les politiques de l'UE, l'Honorable Parlementaire sait certainement que, en application des articles 165 et 166 TFUE, des sujets tels que ceux mentionnés dans sa question relèvent pour l'essentiel de la compétence des États membres. Cela étant, l'article 165, paragraphe 2, TFUE préconise une action de l'UE visant à développer la dimension européenne dans l'éducation, *notamment par l'apprentissage et la diffusion des langues des États membres,* tandis que l'article 3, paragraphe 3, TUE et l'article 165, paragraphe 1, TFUE garantissent le respect de la *diversité culturelle et linguistique* de l'Europe.

Comme l'Honorable Parlementaire s'en souvient sans doute, la réunion du Conseil européen de Barcelone de 2002 a défini comme objectif pour les États membres l'enseignement d'au moins deux langues étrangères dès un âge très précoce. En 2006, le Parlement européen et le Conseil ont adopté une recommandation sur les compétences clés pour l'éducation et la formation tout au long de la vie ([1]), qui citait la communication en langues étrangères parmi les huit compétences clés que chaque citoyen devrait acquérir.

Le Conseil n'a en outre cessé d'apporter la preuve de son engagement en faveur de la promotion de la diversité linguistique et a adopté plusieurs initiatives importantes dans ce domaine. Deux initiatives spécifiques mériteraient d'être mentionnées à cet égard:

La résolution du Conseil de 2008 relative à une stratégie européenne en faveur du multilinguisme ([2]) voyait dans la diversité linguistique à la fois un atout et un défi pour l'Europe et soulignait l'importance que revêt la promotion de l'apprentissage des langues, y compris la promotion des langues européennes moins répandues, en tant que moyen de renforcer la cohésion sociale et le dialogue interculturel et d'encourager la compétitivité et l'employabilité.

Les conclusions du Conseil de novembre 2011 sur les compétences linguistiques visant à améliorer la mobilité ([3]) ont également encouragé les États membres à proposer un choix plus vaste de langues à tous les niveaux d'enseignement.

([1]) JO L 394 du 30.12.2006, p. 10.
([2]) JO C 320 du 16.12.2008, p. 1.
([3]) JO C 372 du 20.12.2011, p. 27.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010216/13
to the Council
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Protecting languages

Will the Council act on Parliament's request in report A7-0239/2013 and, within its terms of reference under the Treaty, adapt EU policies and schedule programmes so as to support the preservation of the endangered languages and linguistic diversity, using EU financial support tools for the period between 2014 and 2020, including programmes on documentation of these languages, as well as on education and training, social inclusion, youth and sport, research and development, the culture and media programme, the structural funds (cohesion fund, ERDF, ESF, European territorial cooperation, EARDF), and all instruments and exchange platforms designed to promote new technologies, social media, and multimedia platforms, encompassing support for the generation of both content and applications?

Reply
(25 November 2013)

With regard to the content and priorities of the new generation of European Union programmes and instruments (2014-2020), the Honourable Member will be aware that these are not determined by the Council alone but are in most cases subject to the ordinary legislative procedure in which the European Parliament plays its full role as a co-legislator. Most of the programmes are now close to finalisation, and in a number of cases the texts agreed between the co-legislators do contain provisions that specifically address the issue of linguistic diversity. For example the new support programme for culture and media, the Creative Europe Programme 2014-2020, has among its objectives the safeguarding, development and promotion of European cultural and linguistic diversity.

As for EU policies more generally, the Honourable Member is certainly aware that, pursuant to Articles 165 and 166 TFEU, issues such as those referred to in his question essentially come under Member States' competence. This being said, Article 165(2) TFEU promotes Union action aimed at developing the European dimension in education, in particular through the teaching and dissemination of the languages of the Member States, while Article 3(3) TEU and Article 165(1) TFEU ensure respect for Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity.

As the Honourable Member will no doubt remember, the 2002 Barcelona European Council meeting set Member States the objective of teaching at least two foreign languages from a very early age. In 2006, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a recommendation on key competence for lifelong learning ([1]), which included communication in foreign languages as one of eight key competences that every citizen should acquire.

The Council has also consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering linguistic diversity and has adopted several important initiatives in this area. Two specific initiatives could be mentioned in this respect:

The 2008 Council Resolution on a European strategy for multilingualism ([2]) identified linguistic diversity as both an asset and a challenge for Europe, and highlighted the importance of promoting language learning — including that of less widely used European languages — as a means of strengthening social cohesion and intercultural dialogue, as well as boosting competitiveness and employability.

Also, the Council conclusions of November 2011 on language competences to enhance mobility ([3]) encouraged the Member States to offer a broader choice of languages at all levels of education.

([1]) OJ L 394, 30.12.2006, p. 10.
([2]) OJ C 320, 16.12.2008, p. 1.
([3]) OJ C 372, 20.12.2011, p. 27.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010217/13
au Conseil
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: SESM et lacunes de la PMI de 2007

Le Conseil compte-t-il, comme le lui a demandé le Parlement durant sa session de septembre 2013, élaborer une SESM qui prévoie l'articulation et la coordination entre tous les acteurs européens et les États membres concernés par la sûreté maritime et se fonde sur elles?

Réponse
(11 novembre 2013)

Dans ses conclusions du 26 avril 2010 sur la stratégie en matière de sécurité maritime, le Conseil a invité la Haute Représentante, conjointement avec la Commission et les États membres, «à entreprendre des travaux en vue de définir des options pour l'éventuelle élaboration d'une stratégie en matière de sécurité du domaine maritime mondial (…). Les travaux se dérouleront dans le contexte de la PESC/PSDC, dans le cadre de la stratégie européenne de sécurité.» Ce processus a été lancé en 2010 par la présidence espagnole et a depuis été élargi pour ne pas confiner les délibérations au seul cadre de la PESC/PESD. Ce travail est mené conjointement avec la Commission de manière à garantir la pleine participation de tous les services concernés, ainsi qu'une coordination interne appropriée. Tous les acteurs européens concernés, y compris les États membres, participent à ce processus: ils sont consultés et apportent des contributions actives en tant que présidences du Conseil ou des contributions écrites.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010217/13
to the Council
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: EMSS and shortcomings of the 2007 IMP

Will the Council, as Parliament requested in its September 2013 part-session, elaborate an EMSS centred on articulation and coordination among all European players and Member States concerned by maritime security?

Reply
(11 November 2013)

In its conclusions on a maritime security strategy dated 26 April 2010, the Council invited the High Representative, together with the Commission and Member States, 'to undertake work with a view to preparing options for the possible elaboration of a Security Strategy for the global maritime domain […] Work will take place in the context of CFSP/CSDP, within the framework of the European Security Strategy.' The process that was initiated by the Spanish Presidency in 2010 and has since been extended, in the sense that deliberations would not remain confined to CFSP/CSDP. The work is carried out jointly with the Commission in order to ensure the full involvement of all relevant services as well as appropriate internal coordination. All relevant European stakeholders, including Member States, are involved in the process via consultations and active contributions as Presidencies of the Council or written contributions.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010218/13
à la Commission (Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante)
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: VP/HR — SESM et lacunes de la PMI de 2007

1. La Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante compte-t-elle, comme le lui a demandé le Parlement durant sa session de septembre 2013, élaborer une SESM qui prévoie l'articulation et la coordination entre tous les acteurs européens et les États membres concernés par la sûreté maritime et se fonde sur elles?

2. Pourrait-elle également combler les lacunes de la PMI de 2007, qui n'intègre pas la dimension de la sécurité, ni les limites de la SES, celle-ci n'abordant pas les menaces et les risques en matière de sécurité maritime? Le niveau d'ambition de la SESM ainsi que ses moyens et capacités devraient être consacrés dans la SES et la PMI, et devraient être déterminés par la nécessité d'agir comme un pourvoyeur de sécurité au niveau mondial, garantissant ainsi des flux maritimes et un accès libres à la haute mer dans le monde entier. Le fait de réglementer la sécurité maritime affectera, à court, moyen et long terme, toutes les autres composantes de la sécurité et de la prospérité européennes.

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010219/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: SESM et lacunes de la PMI de 2007

1. La Commission, compte-t-elle, comme le lui a demandé le Parlement durant sa session de septembre 2013, élaborer une SESM qui prévoie l'articulation et la coordination entre tous les acteurs européens et les États membres concernés par la sûreté maritime et se fonde sur elles?

2. Pourrait-elle également combler les lacunes de la PMI de 2007, qui n'intègre pas la dimension de la sécurité, ni les limites de la SES, celle-ci n'abordant pas les menaces et les risques en matière de sécurité maritime? Le niveau d'ambition de la SESM ainsi que ses moyens et capacités devraient être consacrés dans la SES et la PMI, et devraient être déterminés par la nécessité d'agir comme un pourvoyeur de sécurité au niveau mondial, garantissant ainsi des flux maritimes et un accès libres à la haute mer dans le monde entier. Le fait de réglementer la sécurité maritime, affectera, à court, moyen et long terme, toutes les autres composantes de la sécurité et de la prospérité européennes.

Réponse commune donnée par Mme Ashton, Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante au nom de la Commission
(5 novembre 2013)

La Commission examine actuellement un projet d'éléments constitutifs d'une vaste stratégie européenne en matière de sécurité maritime, en vue de présenter une proposition aux États membres et au Parlement européen. C'est en effet dans ce contexte que les enjeux et les lacunes soulignés par l'Honorable Parlementaire seront traités. La Commission remercie l'Honorable Parlementaire d'avoir mis en lumière ces préoccupations et d'apporter son soutien à l'approche globale.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010218/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — EMSS and shortcomings of the 2007 IMP

1. Will the High Representative, as Parliament requested in its September 2013 part-session, elaborate an EMSS centred on articulation and coordination among all European players and Member States concerned by maritime security?

2. Could she also address the shortcomings of the 2007 IMP, which does not include a security dimension, as well as the limits of the ESS, which fails to tackle maritime security threats and risks? The EMSS's level of ambition, means and capabilities should be anchored in the ESS and the IMP and should be framed by the need to act as a global security provider, thereby ensuring free maritime flows and access on the high seas worldwide. Regulating maritime security will in the short, medium and long term affect all the other components of European security and prosperity.

Question for written answer E-010219/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: EMSS and shortcomings of the 2007 IMP

1. Will the Commission, as Parliament requested in its September 2013 part-session, elaborate an EMSS centred on articulation and coordination among all European players and Member States concerned by maritime security?

2. Could the Commission also address the shortcomings of the 2007 IMP, which does not include a security dimension, as well as the limits of the ESS, which fails to tackle maritime security threats and risks? The EMSS's level of ambition, means and capabilities should be anchored in the ESS and the IMP and should be framed by the need to act as a global security provider, thereby ensuring free maritime flows and access on the high seas worldwide. Regulating maritime security will in the short, medium and long term affect all the other components of European security and prosperity.

Joint answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

The Commission is reflecting on draft elements for comprehensive European Maritime Security Strategy in view of putting forward a proposal to Member States and the European Parliament. Indeed, the challenges and shortcomings as outlined by the Honourable Member will be addressed in that context. The Commission thanks the Honourable Member for highlighting these concerns and for the support to the overall approach.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010220/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Projet Galileo pour l'Arctique

La Commission pourrait-elle présenter des propositions concernant la manière dont le projet Galileo pourrait bénéficier à la politique de l'Union pour l'Arctique, et la façon dont il pourrait évoluer afin de permettre une navigation plus sûre dans les eaux de l'Arctique, en investissant donc plus particulièrement dans la sûreté et l'accessibilité du passage du Nord-Est?

Réponse donnée par M. Tajani au nom de la Commission
(5 novembre 2013)

En disposant de son propre système mondial de navigation par satellite dans le cadre du programme Galileo, l'Union européenne réduira la vulnérabilité, offrira de meilleurs résultats et garantira une navigation plus sûre dans l'Arctique.

Grâce à la couverture mondiale de Galileo, ses services devraient donner des résultats aussi satisfaisants dans les zones septentrionales qu'à de plus basses latitudes. De plus, à eux deux, Galileo et GPS disposeront de plus de satellites et de plus de fréquences, et résisteront mieux à l'interférence des signaux. Le signal Galileo offrira également une meilleure précision dans les conditions ionosphériques difficiles de l'Arctique.

Le service Galileo de recherche et de sauvetage (Search and Rescue Service, SAR) apportera une nouvelle valeur ajoutée dans l'environnement arctique éprouvant, car il garantira une couverture complète et instantanée. Il améliorera le service SAR mondial actuel, qui, pour l'instant, ne peut pas garantir de couverture immédiate dans les situations d'urgence.

Le service commercial Galileo présentera des caractéristiques et donnera des résultats que les autres systèmes de navigation par satellite n'offrent pas actuellement. Plus particulièrement, ses services d'authentification et de haute précision peuvent être utilisés en mer, par exemple pour les opérations sismiques et le positionnement dynamique des plates-formes et des navires.

Tous les services Galileo contribueront à renforcer la sécurité de la navigation dans l'Arctique, y compris pour les navires qui empruntent le passage du Nord-Est.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010220/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: GALILEO and the Arctic

Would it be possible for the Commission to put forward proposals regarding the way in which GALILEO could be used to promote the EU's Arctic policy, and the way in which this project could be developed to allow safer navigation of Arctic waters, in particular by investing in the safety and accessibility of the North East Passage?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

By having its own global satellite navigation system, established under the Galileo programme, the European Union will offer reduced vulnerability and better performance and ensure safer navigation in the Arctic.

With Galileo's global coverage, the performance of its services is expected to be as good in the northern areas as at lower latitudes. In addition, Galileo and GPS combined will have more satellites and more frequencies and will provide increased robustness against signal interference. The Galileo signal will also offer increased precision in the difficult ionospheric conditions of the Arctic.

The Galileo Search and Rescue Service (SAR) will provide new added value in the challenging Arctic environment, as it will ensure a complete and instantaneous coverage. It will improve the current worldwide SAR service which can for the moment not guarantee immediate coverage in emergency situations.

The Galileo Commercial Service will provide characteristics and a performance which are currently not offered by other satellite navigation systems. More particularly, its authentication and high precision services can be used offshore, such as for seismic operations and dynamic positioning of platforms and ships.

All the Galileo services will contribute to making navigation in the Arctic safer, including the ships that will follow the North East Passage.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010221/13
à la Commission (Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante)
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: VP/HR — Biélorussie et des Droits de l'homme

1. La Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante va-t-elle, comme le lui demande le Parlement, prier instamment les autorités biélorusses de respecter les Droits de l'homme et d'œuvrer en faveur d'une transition démocratique afin de mettre fin à l'isolement par rapport au reste de l'Europe dans lequel le pays s'est lui-même plongé?

2. Va-t-elle, comme le lui demande le Parlement, exiger la libération inconditionnelle et immédiate de tous les prisonniers politiques, ainsi que le rétablissement de l'ensemble de leurs droits civils et politiques, qui sont des conditions préalables absolues à une amélioration des relations bilatérales entre l'Union et la Biélorussie qui pourrait conduire à la levée progressive des mesures restrictives imposées par l'Union européenne et à un déblocage des relations UE-Biélorussie?

Réponse donnée par M[me] Ashton, Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante au nom de la Commission
(6 novembre 2013)

La Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante suit de près la situation en Biélorussie. Elle saisit toutes les occasions qui se présentent pour faire part des préoccupations de l'UE aux autorités biélorusses, notamment à chaque fois qu'apparaît, dans ses contacts avec l'administration biélorusse, une question ou une affaire relative au respect des Droits de l'homme et de la démocratie.

La libération immédiate et inconditionnelle de tous les prisonniers politiques et leur réhabilitation sont une priorité politique pour l'UE. En témoigne la référence aux prisonniers politiques et notamment à leurs conditions d'incarcération et à leur état de santé, dans toutes les actions, déclarations et messages diplomatiques de l'UE dans ce domaine. Les prisonniers politiques, et en règle générale, les victimes de répression, ont reçu et continuent de recevoir le soutien de l'UE.

L'Union européenne poursuivra son dialogue avec la Biélorussie sur la question des prisonniers politiques et des violations des Droits de l'homme en général. Le développement de relations bilatérales dans le cadre du Partenariat oriental est subordonné aux progrès de la Biélorussie en matière de respect des principes de démocratie, d'État de droit et de Droits de l'homme. Les mesures restrictives de l'UE sont réexaminées régulièrement.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010221/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Belarus and human rights

1. Does the High Representative intend to comply with Parliament's request to urge the Belarusian authorities to respect human rights and to work towards a democratic transition in order to put an end to the country's self-imposed isolation from the rest of Europe?

2. Will the High Representative comply with Parliament's request by demanding the unconditional and immediate release of all political prisoners and the full restoration of their civil and political rights, given that these are absolute prerequisites for the improvement of bilateral relations between the EU and Belarus and could result in a gradual lifting of the restrictions imposed by the European Union and a thawing in relations between the EU and Belarus?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

The HR/VP follows closely the situation in Belarus. The HR/VP takes every opportunity to raise the EU's concerns with the Belarusian authorities. This includes any issues and cases related to respect of human rights and democracy in any contacts with the Belarusian administration.

The immediate and unconditional release and rehabilitation of all political prisoners is a political priority for the EU. This is evidenced by the reference to the political prisoners, including the conditions under which they are imprisoned and their state of health, in all relevant actions, statements and diplomatic messages of the EU. Political prisoners, and in general victims of repression, have been and continue to be supported by the EU.

The EU will continue to engage Belarus on the issue of political prisoners and human rights violations in general. The development of bilateral relations under the Eastern Partnership is conditional on progress towards respect by Belarus for the principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The EU restrictive measures remain under constant review.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite P-010248/13
à la Commission (Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante)
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: VP/HR — Fermetures des tunnels et situation humanitaire à Gaza

Depuis le coup d'État militaire du 3 juillet en Égypte, le régime militaire a détruit presque tous les tunnels souterrains qui passent sous la frontière entre l'Égypte et Gaza. Ces dernières années, les tunnels ont joué un rôle de vitale importance pour l'approvisionnement de la bande de Gaza.

L'Égypte a commencé à démolir des maisons situées le long de sa frontière avec Gaza, ce qui est interprété comme le prélude de la future mise en place d'une «zone tampon» appelée à isoler encore plus Gaza.

Par ailleurs, la frontière de Rafah, seule porte d'entrée et de sortie de Gaza est fréquemment fermée et le poste-frontière d'Erez, seul point de passage permettant le transit entre Israël et Gaza, a été fermé par les autorités israéliennes en représailles de la publication des lignes directrices de l'Union.

D'après le Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires des Nations unies (OCHA), 57 % des ménages de Gaza sont en situation d'insécurité alimentaire (données de juillet 2013). Si les mesures actuelles prises par Israël et l'Égypte restent telles, ce sont 65 % des ménages qui se trouveront en situation d'insécurité alimentaire.

En août 2013, plus d'un tiers (35,5 %) des personnes capables et volontaires pour travailler sont sans emploi (Bureau central palestinien des statistiques) — l'un des taux de chômage les plus élevés au monde. Les économistes s'attendent à ce que la fermeture permanente des tunnels conduise à une montée conséquente du niveau du chômage (43 % fin 2013 en comparaison des 32 % de juin 2013).

Plus de 90 % de l'eau pompée dans la nappe phréatique de Gaza est impropre à la consommation humaine et environ 90 millions de litres d'eaux usées finissent chaque jour dans la mer au large de la côte de Gaza, créant des dangers pour la santé publique.

1. La haute représentante de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité ne considère-t-elle pas que la catastrophe en cours à Gaza est un effet calculé et délibéré du siège, ce qui en fait un crime de guerre et une punition collective au regard du droit international?

2. Quels sont les moyens de pression que l'Union peut mettre en œuvre afin de rouvrir les tunnels souterrains pour garantir l'approvisionnement de Gaza et ainsi éviter une crise humanitaire qui s'annonce déjà?

3. Quelles mesures urgentes sont envisagées afin d'aider la population gazaouie en situation extrême?

Réponse donnée par M[me] Ashton, Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante au nom de la Commission
(21 octobre 2013)

La Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante suit de près l'évolution de la situation dans la bande de Gaza et est très préoccupée par le contexte socio-économique déplorable qui y règne et qui constitue une priorité à long terme de l'aide humanitaire de l'UE.

L'UE continue d'apporter une aide humanitaire aux personnes les plus vulnérables et une assistance technique aux infrastructures de la bande de Gaza.

Les tunnels de contrebande qui passent sous la frontière entre l'Égypte et Gaza ne résolvent pas les problèmes liés au blocus de Gaza. Au contraire, ils ne font qu'accroître les inquiétudes sur le plan de la sécurité. Tout en étant pleinement consciente des besoins d'Israël et de l'Égypte en matière de sécurité, l'Union européenne a demandé à plusieurs reprises l'ouverture immédiate, durable et sans condition de points de passage pour permettre l'acheminement de l'aide humanitaire ainsi que la circulation des marchandises et de personnes à destination et en provenance de la bande de Gaza (voir les conclusions du Conseil «Affaires étrangères» de décembre 2012). À cet égard, la Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante a salué la décision prise récemment par les autorités égyptiennes et israéliennes d'autoriser le passage d'un plus grand nombre de personnes et d'un volume plus important de matériaux de construction aux postes-frontières de Rafah et Kerem Shalom.

La situation de la bande de Gaza restera intenable tant qu'elle sera politiquement et économiquement séparée de la Cisjordanie. L'UE demeurera attachée au respect de la résolution n° 1860/2009 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies ainsi que des critères arrêtés par le Quartet (UE, États-Unis, Russie, Nations unies) pour l'établissement de relations officielles avec les autorités de fait de Gaza, à savoir s'engager à ne pas recourir à la violence, reconnaître l'État d'Israël et accepter les accords conclus antérieurement entre Israéliens et Palestiniens. Elle continue de jouer un rôle d'intermédiaire sur le plan diplomatique entre les partenaires israéliens, égyptiens et palestiniens et accorde une attention particulière au cessez-le-feu du 21 novembre 2012 ainsi qu'au processus de réconciliation entre Palestiniens.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010248/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Closure of tunnels and humanitarian situation in Gaza

Since the 3 July 2013 coup, the military regime in Egypt has destroyed almost all of the tunnels running underneath the Egypt-Gaza border. Over the last few years, these tunnels have played a crucial role in getting goods into the Gaza Strip.

Egypt has begun to demolish homes along the Gaza border, which is seen as a prelude to the setting up of a 'buffer zone' which would segregate Gaza still further.

What is more, the Rafah crossing — the only border crossing between Egypt and Gaza — is often closed and the Erez crossing, which is the only border crossing through which goods can be transported between Israel and Gaza, has been closed by the Israeli authorities in retaliation to the publication of EU guidelines prohibiting cooperation with settlements.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 57% of households in Gaza were food insecure in July 2013. If the action currently being taken by Israel and Egypt continues, the proportion of households short of food will increase to 65%.

In August 2013, over a third (35.5%) of those able and willing to work were unemployed in Gaza (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics) — one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. Economists predict that closing the tunnels permanently would result in a sharp increase in the unemployment rate (to 43% by the end of 2013, compared with 32% in June 2013).

More than 90% of the water pumped from Gaza's aquifer is not fit for human consumption and approximately 90 million litres of wastewater are discharged into Gaza's coastal waters each day, creating a public health risk.

1. Does the High Representative not believe that the disaster unfolding in Gaza is an intentional consequence of the siege, and thus constitutes a war crime and collective punishment under international law?

2. What pressure can the Union exert in an effort to reopen the underground tunnels, thus enabling supplies to be brought into Gaza and the impending humanitarian crisis to be averted?

3. What urgent action is being considered with a view to alleviating the plight of the hard-pressed population of Gaza?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(21 October 2013)

The HR/VP closely follows developments in the Gaza Strip and is concerned with the miserable socioeconomic situation — a long term priority of the EU assistance. The EU continues humanitarian and technical assistance to most vulnerable people and infrastructure of the Gaza Strip.

Smuggling tunnels underneath Egyptian — Gaza border are not a solution to Gaza blockade problem — on the contrary they contribute to the security dimension of the problem. Rather, while fully recognising both Israel and Egypt's legitimate security needs, the EU has repeatedly called for the immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from the Gaza Strip (ref. December 2012 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions). In this regard, the HR/VP appreciated the recent decisions by Egyptian and Israeli authorities to allow for increased passage of people and construction material through Rafah and Kerem Shalom border crossings.

The situation of the Gaza strip is unsustainable as long as it remains politically and economically separated from the West Bank. The EU remains committed to the UNSC resolution 1860/2009 as well as the Quartet (EU, US, Russia, UN) parameters for establishing official relations with Gaza *de facto* authorities; i.e. commitment to nonviolence, recognition of the State of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements between Israeli and Palestinian parties. The EU shall continue its intermediary diplomatic efforts vis-à-vis Israeli, Egyptian and Palestinian partners with a special attention to the ceasefire of 21 November 2012 and the Palestinian reconciliation process.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010249/13
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Drones — right to privacy

Could the Commission comment on reports of drones operating in European skies? Does the Commission feel that drones represent a violation of Directive 95/46/EC on the protection of personal data?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

There is currently no European legislation in place on operations of drones (also referred to as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems or RPAS). Member States are competent for granting specific and individual authorisations to RPAS operators. Such operators have to respect the terms of specific authorisation, including the relevant legislation on the protection of personal data.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010251/13
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Drones — EU bases

Could the Commission provide details on the countries out of which drones in European skies are operating?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(21 November 2013)

The Commission has no official information on States out of which drones (also referred to as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems or RPAS) have flown in European airspace.

There are no EU rules on operations of drones. Drone operations fall under Article 8 of the Chicago Convention which provides as follows: 'No aircraft capable of being flown without a pilot shall be flown without a pilot over the territory of a contracting State without special authorization by that State and in accordance with the terms of such authorization'.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010252/13
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Drones — military capacity

Could the Commission comment on whether drones with military capacities are operating in European skies?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

The Commission has no information on operations of drones (also referred to as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems or RPAS) with military capacities in the European airspace, a matter which is not regulated by EC law. These operations are usually conducted in accordance with military aviation rules.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010253/13
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Foreign drones in EU skies

Can the Vice-President comment on whether or not drones from non-EU states have flown over EU skies?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(22 October 2013)

The Commission has no information on whether or not drones (also referred to as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems or RPAS) from non-EU states have flown in the airspace under the responsibility of EU Member States.

Operations of RPAS are not as such regulated by EU legislation. However, the Commission draws the attention of the Honourable Member to the provisions of Article 8 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago convention) which provides as follows:

'No aircraft capable of being flown without a pilot shall be flown without a pilot over the territory of a contracting State without special authorisation by that State and in accordance with the terms of such authorisation'.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010254/13
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Solar panels — job losses

According to the group EU ProSun, two thirds of the 15 000 solar panel-industry jobs already lost in Europe have been in Germany (*International Herald Tribune*, 28 July 2013).

Could the Commission comment on whether Globalisation Adjustment Funds have been requested by these companies?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(31 October 2013)

Applications for aid from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) cannot be submitted by companies dismissing workers, but only by the relevant Member State, since it will be responsible for carrying out any measures part-funded by the EGF to help the workers find new jobs as soon as possible.

The Commission has received an application for EGF support from the German authorities with respect to 1 244 workers made redundant by the solar modules manufacturer First Solar Manufacturing GmbH. The application is currently being assessed with a view to its forwarding to Parliament and the Council in the third week of October 2013.

Further details concerning the application are available on the EGF website ([1]). The relevant webpage is updated in line with progress made in the procedure (i.e. completion of Commission analysis, start of budgetary procedure, adoption of decision by Budgetary Authority, payment of the EU contribution, etc.) and various EU documents will be made available for consultation on the webpage once they are adopted or approved.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=582&langId=en&egfAppsId=123&furtherEgfApps=yes

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010255/13
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Solar panels — lobbying by Member States

It has been reported that the EU has launched 'crusades' against Chinese industry, with a particular focus on steel, ceramics and raw materials (Financial Times, 31 July 2013).

Could the Commission provide details on any dialogue pursued or actions taken in regard to these industries in China?

Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission
(29 October 2013)

The actions taken by the European Union against imports from the People's Republic of China are based on thorough investigations into alleged injurious unfair trade resulting from dumping or subsidisation practices that are contrary to the rules set by the relevant EU legislation. Such investigations are initiated upon receipt of a duly substantiated complaint by the relevant European Union producers providing sufficient evidence that they are suffering injury as a result of unfair trade practices.

The Commission has a broad range of regular dialogues with its Chinese counterparts including through specific sectoral dialogues such as the Steel Working Group and a Raw Materials dialogue. The overall objective of these dialogues is to increase transparency and mutual understanding in order to resolve or prevent any problems that may arise.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010256/13
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Solar panels — USA

It has been reported that the EU trade war with China on the issue of solar panels has caused concern with the US authorities (*International Herald Tribune*, 28 July 2013).

Could the Commission comment on whether any requests have been made by the USA on this issue?

Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission
(14 November 2013)

Both the EU and the US have pursued trade defence cases against Chinese solar panels. While the EU and the US are in frequent contact regarding ongoing trade matters, the idea of a joint approach to these cases has not been pursued as they relate to two separate independent legal proceedings.

In instances where international trade in manufactured goods is distorted by unfair competition, in so far as subsidisation and/or dumping practices cause injury to the Union industry, anti-subsidy and/or anti-dumping duties may be imposed after investigation by the Commission. The use of trade defence instruments is regulated amongst other by the World Trade Organisation

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita P-010257/13
à Comissão
Mário David (PPE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Estatuto SPG+ para o Paquistão

O Prémio Sakharov para a Liberdade de Pensamento, que o Parlamento Europeu atribui anualmente, é um dos prémios com mais prestígio e renome a nível mundial no domínio dos direitos humanos e das liberdades fundamentais. Além disso, os nossos acordos comerciais com países terceiros têm critérios vinculativos em matéria de direitos humanos, laborais e ambientais.

Ao defender os valores universais nos quais a nossa União assenta, denunciamos e controlamos as violações dos direitos humanos e das liberdades fundamentais, quer as vítimas sejam crianças, mulheres ou minorias.

É por isso mesmo que somos respeitados em todo o mundo.

A UE não negoceia a democracia, o Estado de direito, a universalidade e indivisibilidade dos direitos humanos e das liberdades fundamentais, o respeito pela dignidade humana, os princípios da igualdade e da solidariedade ou o respeito dos princípios da Carta das Nações Unidas e do direito internacional (artigo 21.° do TUE). Estes valores, além de estarem consagrados nos nossos Tratados desde a fundação da União Europeia, foram reforçados pela Carta dos Direitos Fundamentais.

Recentemente, a Comissão, através de um ato delegado, afirmou que 10 países (tão diferentes entre si como Cabo Verde, Mongólia, Geórgia, Arménia, Bolívia, Equador, Paraguai, Peru, Costa Rica e Paquistão, embora incluídos no mesmo ato legislativo…) cumprem os critérios de adesão relevantes, nos termos do artigo 9.°, n.° 1, do Regulamento (UE) n.° 978/2012, relativo à aplicação de um sistema de preferências pautais generalizadas, para beneficiar das preferências pautais adicionais previstas ao abrigo do SPG+.

Sabemos, e foi confirmado por vários relatórios da ONU, e, em certa medida, pela própria Comissão, que o Paquistão enquanto Estado tem revelado sérias deficiências em matéria de imposição do respeito por direitos humanos fundamentais.

À luz do acima exposto, pergunto à Comissão:

1. Procedeu a UE a alguma alteração dos critérios sobre as relações com países terceiros de que o Parlamento não tenha conhecimento?

2. Caso contrário, considera a Comissão que o Paquistão cumpre os critérios previstos no artigo 21.° do TUE e no artigo 9.°, n.° 1, alínea b), do Regulamento «SPG» n.° 978/2012?

Resposta dada por Karel De Gucht em nome da Comissão
(1 de outubro de 2013)

No âmbito da preparação do ato delegado ao abrigo do regime especial de incentivo ao desenvolvimento sustentável e à boa governança (SPG+), a Comissão analisou a rigorosa conformidade de todos os países candidatos com os requisitos jurídicos estabelecidos no Regulamento (UE) n.° 978/2012 ([1]).

Após esta análise, a Comissão concluiu que o Paquistão, conjuntamente com todos os demais candidatos incluídos no ato delegado, cumpre os requisitos jurídicos para beneficiar das preferências pautais SPG+. Por conseguinte, em consonância com os requisitos do Regulamento (UE) n.° 978/2012, a Comissão adotou o ato delegado.

A Comissão remete o Senhor Deputado para a resposta dada às perguntas escritas E-04904/2013 e E-007870/2013 ([2]).

([1]) Regulamento (UE) n.° 978/2012 do Parlamento Europeu e do Conselho, de 25 de outubro de 2012, relativo à aplicação de um sistema de preferências pautais generalizadas e que revoga o Regulamento (CE) n.° 732/2008 do Conselho, JO L 303 de 31.10.2012.
([2]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html?tabType=wq#sidesForm

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010257/13
to the Commission
Mário David (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: GSP+ status for Pakistan

The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, which the European Parliament awards every year, is one of the most prestigious and celebrated world prizes in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, the EU's trade agreements with third countries include binding criteria relating to human, labour and environmental rights.

Defending the universal values our Union is built upon, we denounce, expose and monitor violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those perpetrated against children, women or minorities.

This is why we are respected all over the world.

The EU does not barter democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, or respect for the principles of the UN Charter and international law (Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)). These values, besides being embedded in the EU's Treaties since its foundation, have been reinforced by the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Recently, the Commission, in a delegated act, stated that 10 countries — as different as Cape Verde, Mongolia, Georgia, Armenia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Costa Rica and Pakistan, although dealt with in the same legislative act — now meet the criteria, under Article 9(1) of the GSP Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 978/2012), for the additional tariff preferences provided under GSP+.

We know — and it has been confirmed by several UN reports and, to some extent, by the Commission itself — that Pakistan as a state exhibits serious failings when it comes to imposing respect for basic human rights.

1. Taking this into consideration, can the Commission state whether the EU has introduced any changes in the criteria governing relations with third countries which Parliament is not aware of?

2. If this is not the case, does the Commission consider that Pakistan fulfils the criteria set out in Article 21 TEU and Article 9(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012?

Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission
(1 October 2013)

In the preparation of the delegated act under the EU's special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance (GSP+) the Commission has analysed the compliance of all applicant countries strictly in accordance with the legal requirements set in Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 ([1]).

Following this analysis, the Commission concluded that Pakistan, together with all the other applicants included in the delegated act, comply with the legal requirements to be granted GSP+ trade preferences. As a result, and in line also with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012, the Commission adopted the delegated act accordingly.

The Commission would also refer the Honourable Member to its answer to previous written questions E-004904/2013 and E-007870/2013 ([2]).

([1]) Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008, OJ L 303, 31.10.2012.
([2]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html?tabType=wq#sidesForm

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta P-010258/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Gravi minacce alla conservazione degli uccelli selvatici in Italia a causa dell'attività di caccia esercitata in palese violazione della direttiva «Uccelli» 2009/147/CE

Con le interrogazioni E-007486/2012 e P-007639/2012 lo scrivente denunciava alla Commissione alcune gravi violazioni alla direttiva 2009/147/CE a causa dei calendari venatori — stagione 2012/2013 — delle regioni italiane e della legge italiana n. 157/92 sulla caccia.

A distanza di un anno in Italia la situazione rimane la stessa e sia la legge statale sulla caccia (L. 157/92) sia le leggi regionali sia i calendari venatori delle regioni italiane per la stagione 2013/2014 prevedono che: 1) diverse specie di uccelli migratori sono cacciabili durante le fasi di dipendenza, 2) diverse specie di uccelli migratori sono cacciabili dopo l'inizio del ritorno al luogo di nidificazione, 3) carnieri giornalieri e stagionali sono incompatibili con lo stato di conservazione di alcune specie di uccelli, 4) la caccia a specie di uccelli è ammissibile nonostante il loro status negativo.

In Italia, inoltre, non sono ancora stati attuati i piani di gestione concernenti le seguenti 19 specie di uccelli: Allodola, Moriglione, Pernice rossa, Coturnice, Pavoncella, Combattente, Canapiglia, Codone, Marzaiola, Mestolone, Moretta, Fagiano di monte, Pernice sarda, Starna, Quaglia, Frullino, Beccaccia, Beccaccino, Tortora, tutte specie che si trovano in sfavorevole stato di conservazione, ma che sono attualmente soggette all'attività venatoria da parte di circa 750.000 cacciatori italiani.

Inoltre, nella stagione venatoria 2013/2014, in Italia, ben 16 regioni italiane hanno aperto la stagione venatoria anticipatamente già in data 1° settembre ([1]), anziché in data 15 settembre, consentendo la caccia di specie di uccelli in riproduzione con i piccoli nei nidi (Colombaccio) o in grave declino (Tortora e Quaglia).

Può la Commissione riferire:

1. se è al corrente dell'attuale grave situazione sopra descritta esistente in Italia;

2. se ha valutato ed esaminato la situazione così come annunciato nelle risposte alle succitate interrogazioni ricevute in data 4.9.2012 e 1.10.2012;

3. quali misure e procedimenti intende intraprendere nei confronti dell'Italia considerata la palese e reiterata violazione dei principi fondamentali di tutela degli uccelli stabiliti dalla direttiva 2009/147/CE?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(15 ottobre 2013)

La Commissione si è informata e ha esaminato i fatti segnalati dall'onorevole deputato relativamente alla caccia agli uccelli in Italia e alla non conformità con la direttiva 2009/147/CE ([2]) (cosiddetta direttiva «Uccelli selvatici»).

Stando alle informazioni disponibili e ai dati sui concetti fondamentali ([3]), non risulta esserci sovrapposizione tra i periodi di caccia e i periodi di riproduzione e di migrazione prenuziale, soprattutto se si considerano la possibilità di una sovrapposizione parziale teorica di una decade (punto 2.7.2 della Guida alla disciplina della caccia ([4])) o situazioni specifiche come il periodo prolungato di nidificazione del germano reale (*Anas platyrhynchos)* (punto 2.7.12).

Inoltre la Commissione non ha ricevuto alcun elemento che confermi l'incompatibilità con la direttiva dei carnieri stagionali e giornalieri stabiliti dalle regioni italiane per le diverse specie cacciabili

La Commissione continuerà a seguire l'applicazione della direttiva «Uccelli selvatici» in Italia, in particolare gli ultimi sviluppi della stagione venatoria 2013-2014.

([1]) Cfr.: http://www.wwf.it/news/notizie/?2984/Preapertura-caccia e http://www.lipu.it/news/no.asp?1557.
([2]) GU L 20 del 26.1.2010, pag. 1.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/guidance_en.htm
([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/hunting_guide_it.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010258/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Serious threats to wild bird conservation in Italy as a result of hunting being carried out in clear breach of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)

In written questions E-007486/2012 and P-007639/2012 the Commission was made aware of a number of serious infringements of Directive 2009/147/EC stemming from Italian regions' hunting calendars for the 2012/2013 season and Italian Law No 157/92 on hunting.

One year on, the situation has still not changed and Italian Law No 157/92 on hunting, Italian regional laws and the regions' hunting calendars for the 2013/2014 season all allow: 1) the hunting of various migratory bird species during periods of vulnerability; 2) the hunting of various species of migratory birds following return migration to nesting areas; 3) seasonal and daily game bag limits that are incompatible with the conservation of certain bird species; and 4) the hunting of bird species despite the fact that their numbers are declining.

Moreover, management plans have yet to be introduced for the following 19 species of bird: Skylark, Common Pochard, Red-legged Partridge, Greek partridge, Peewit, Ruff, Gadwall, Pintail, Garganey, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Black Grouse, Barbary Partridge, Grey Partridge, Quail, Jack Snipe, Woodcock, Common Snipe and Turtle Dove which, although declining in number, are still being hunted by some 750 000 Italian hunters.

In the 2013/2014 hunting season in Italy, 16 regions declared the season open early (on 1 September ([1])), when it would normally open on 15 September, meaning that birds in their period of reproduction with chicks (Common Wood Pigeon) or species in serious decline (Turtle Dove and Quail) could be hunted.

1. Is the Commission aware of the serious situation in Italy?

2. Has it assessed the situation as it said it would do in its replies it gave to written questions on 4 September 2012 and 1 October 2012?

3. What measures or proceedings does it intend to take against Italy in response to the blatant and continual infringement of the fundamental principles of bird conservation established by Directive 2009/147/EC?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(15 October 2013)

The Commission has collected and assessed information about the issues raised by the Honourable Member in relation to bird hunting in Italy and compliance with Directive 2009/147/EC ('Birds Directive ([2])').

On the basis of the available information and of the Key Concepts data ([3]), there appears to be no contradiction between the hunting periods for the relevant species and their reproduction and pre-nuptial migration periods, especially taking into account the possibility of a partial, theoretical overlap of one decade (point 2.7.2. of the Hunting Guide ([4])), or certain specific situations such as the prolonged breeding season of the Mallard — *Anas platyrhynchos* (point 2.7.12. of the Hunting Guide).

As regards the seasonal and daily bag limits set by Italian regions for the different huntable species, the Commission has not received any evidence that they would be incompatible with the Birds Directive's provisions.

The Commission will continue monitoring the implementation of the Birds Directive in Italy including the recent developments related to the new hunting season 2013-2014.

([1]) See: http://www.wwf.it/news/notizie/?2984/Preapertura-caccia and http://www.lipu.it/news/no.asp?1557
([2]) OJ L 020, 26.1.2010.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/guidance_en.htm
([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/hunting_guide_en.pdf

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010259/13
a la Comisión
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Futuro de una estrategia europea para el espacio atlántico

La Comisión ha publicado recientemente un informe relativo al valor añadido de las estrategias macrorregionales (COM(2013)0468) en el que, a petición del Consejo, se aclara el concepto de las estrategias macrorregionales, se evalúan sus ventajas y su valor añadido y se formulan recomendaciones sobre el trabajo futuro.

En junio de 2003, el Consejo invitó a la Comisión a definir una Estrategia europea para el espacio atlántico, y en 2011, publicó una Comunicación sobre la estrategia para el Atlántico. El Parlamento Europeo ha expresado en varias ocasiones su posición sobre este tema, insistiendo en que la creación de una estrategia macrorregional para el espacio atlántico abordaría los desafíos y los problemas y favorecería las sinergias entre los distintos instrumentos y niveles de acción y entre los diversos actores presentes sobre el terreno.

Asimismo, ha pedido a la Comisión que proponga un plan de acción para poner en práctica la estrategia en el período 2014-2020. Este plan —que utilizaría fondos europeos ya existentes, sin crear nuevos instrumentos presupuestarios — establecería las prioridades y los proyectos emblemáticos, adoptaría un proceso de evaluación y una revisión a medio período de los logros alcanzados e identificaría los recursos necesarios para llevar a cabo el plan de acción.

El Plan de acción para una estrategia marítima en la región atlántica fue aprobado el pasado mes de mayo por la Comisión, y por el Consejo a finales de junio.

¿Podría informar la Comisión del avance de los trabajos relativos a la implementación del mecanismo de seguimiento del Plan de acción? ¿Para cuándo ve factible la Comisión la puesta en práctica de la estrategia macrorregional?

Respuesta de la Sra. Damanaki en nombre de la Comisión
(11 de noviembre de 2013)

El Plan de acción para una estrategia marítima en la región atlántica fue adoptado por la Comisión en mayo de 2013 y respaldado un mes más tarde por el Consejo de Asuntos Generales y por el Consejo Europeo. Para que este plan tenga éxito, es importante establecer un mecanismo de aplicación que refuerce el compromiso de los actores nacionales y locales y que haga posible el seguimiento de los avances conseguidos. De acuerdo con lo previsto, ese mecanismo podrá comenzar a funcionar a principios de 2014. En estos momentos, con vistas a la revisión a medio plazo a la que se someterá la aplicación del plan a finales de 2017, la Comisión está elaborando una metodología para ese seguimiento. La metodología que se adopte no deberá imponer nuevas exigencias en materia de comunicación, sino, más bien, utilizar la información de base existente.

El respaldo del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo tiene una importancia capital para la aplicación de una estrategia macrorregional en el Atlántico (véase el Informe de la Comisión sobre el valor añadido de las estrategias macrorregionales ([1])). Hasta la fecha, los Estados miembros ribereños del Atlántico han expresado su preferencia por dar a esa región un enfoque marítimo, más que un enfoque macrorregional de mayor alcance. La Comisión opina, por lo tanto, que las regiones y los Estados miembros atlánticos deben, a través de los Fondos europeos y con la participación del sector privado, poner todo su empeño en aplicar el Plan de acción a fin de impulsar el crecimiento económico y la creación de empleo.

([1]) COM(2013) 468.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010259/13
to the Commission
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: The future of a European strategy for the Atlantic area

The Commission recently published a report on the added value of macro-regional strategies (COM(2013)0468) which, as per the Council's request, clarifies the concept of macro-regional strategies, evaluates the benefits and added value thereof, and makes recommendations for future action.

In June 2003, the Council called on the Commission to establish a European Strategy for the Atlantic area, and a communication on the Atlantic Strategy was published in 2011. Parliament has expressed its opinion of this topic on several occasions, emphasising that the creation of a macro-regional strategy for the Atlantic area would tackle challenges, resolve problems and enhance synergies among the various instruments and levels of action and among the various actors on the ground.

In addition, Parliament has called on the Commission to bring forward an action plan for the implementation of the strategy from 2014 to 2020. The plan, which would use existing European funding and would not create any new budgetary instruments, would set out the priorities and flagship projects, adopt a process of evaluation and a mid-term review of achievements and would identify the resources required to implement the action plan.

The action plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic area was adopted by the Commission in May 2013 and by the Council at the end of June 2013.

What is the state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan's monitoring mechanism? At what point will it be possible to implement the macro-regional strategy?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(11 November 2013)

The action plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic area was adopted by the Commission in May 2013 and endorsed by the General Affairs and European Councils in June 2013. An implementation mechanism to enhance engagement of national and local actors and enable progress to be monitored will be an important element in making the action plan a success. As planned, this mechanism is scheduled to be operational early in 2014. The Commission is currently developing a methodology for monitoring progress, in view of the mid-term review of implementation of the action plan by the end of 2017. It should not create any new reporting requirements, but rather use existing baseline information.

Endorsement by the European Parliament and Council is crucial for the implementation of a macro-regional strategy for the Atlantic (cfr Report from the Commission concerning the added value of macro-regional strategies ([1])). So far, Atlantic Member States have expressed their support for a maritime approach for the Atlantic, rather than a broader macro-regional approach for this region. The Commission is therefore of the view that the Atlantic regions and Member States should make every effort to implement the action plan, both through the deployment of European Funds, and through private sector involvement, in order to spur economic growth and job creation.

([1]) COM(2013) 468.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010260/13
a la Comisión
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Pobreza y retroceso del Estado de bienestar en Europa

La pasada semana, la organización Cáritas Europa publicó un informe sobre el futuro del Estado de bienestar en la Unión Europea en el que subraya el grave deterioro del Estado de bienestar por las consecuencias de los recortes presupuestarios, en particular en las políticas sociales. Los efectos de la crisis económica y de las duras políticas de austeridad han provocado un aumento de las desigualdades que sufren los sectores más vulnerables de la sociedad, como los niños y los mayores.

El Parlamento Europeo rechazó, el pasado mes de junio, la propuesta del Consejo que pretendía reducir en 1 000 millones de euros, de los 3 500 millones actuales, el Fondo de Ayuda a las Personas Desfavorecidas de la UE para el periodo 2014-2020, que pretende ayudar a cubrir las necesidades básicas de las personas más vulnerables.

Sin embargo, los datos económicos apuntan a que la pobreza continuará aumentando, y por ello la Unión Europea debe prevenir situaciones no deseadas proponiendo soluciones más ambiciosas para atender a las necesidades de los colectivos más vulnerables.

¿Se plantea la Comisión complementar el Fondo de Ayuda con nuevos mecanismos de solidaridad para proporcionar los recursos necesarios (no solo alimentarios) a las personas que viven en una situación real de emergencia social?

¿Cómo podría mejorarse la dimensión social de la Estrategia Europa 2020 en un momento en el que prima la austeridad frente a la defensa de las políticas públicas en materia de educación, sanidad y educación social?

¿No cree la Comisión que Europa se enfrenta a un retroceso de los sistemas de bienestar?

Respuesta del Sr. Andor en nombre de la Comisión
(6 de noviembre de 2013)

La Comisión es consciente de que la crisis financiera y económica y las medidas de saneamiento presupuestario necesarias para hacer frente a la crisis de la deuda soberana han tenido un grave efecto en la pobreza y la desigualdad, especialmente en los países receptores de ayuda financiera internacional.

Tal y como se indica en el Estudio Prospectivo Anual sobre Crecimiento de 2013, el saneamiento presupuestario debería tener como objetivo minimizar los efectos adversos sobre los colectivos con ingresos reducidos y salvaguardar el potencial de futuro crecimiento. Los responsables de la elaboración de políticas ([1]) cuentan con opciones para determinar cómo se distribuye el efecto del saneamiento mediante la elección de una combinación adecuada de medidas relativas a gastos y a ingresos, así como el diseño y los objetivos de las mismas.

La Comisión acoge con satisfacción el acuerdo alcanzado entre el Parlamento y el Consejo para conceder al Fondo de Ayuda Europea para los Más Necesitados un presupuesto de 3 500 millones de euros, de los cuales 2 500 millones de euros constituyen una parte obligatoria, reforzada con mil millones de euros que los Estados miembros podrán movilizar de forma voluntaria. La propuesta de la Comisión prevé además que los Estados miembros proporcionen una cofinanciación del 15 %, lo que permitirá aumentar los recursos de los programas de ayuda a los más necesitados.

El Paquete sobre Inversión Social ([2]) establece un nuevo programa de políticas sociales para ayudar a los Estados miembros a modernizar sus sistemas sociales, hacer frente a la pobreza y a la exclusión social y salir de la crisis siendo más fuertes, más cohesivos y más competitivos. El Paquete se aplicará a través del Semestre Europeo y con ayuda de los fondos de la UE.

([1]) Véase por ejemplo el EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review (Estudio Trimestral sobre el Empleo y la Situación Social de la UE) de marzo de 2013,
http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=9924&langId=en

([2]) COM(2013) 83 final.
COM(2013) 83 final, de 20 de febrero de 2013.
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52013DC0083:ES:NOT

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010260/13
to the Commission
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Poverty and the shrinking welfare state in Europe

Last week, Caritas Europa published a report on the future of the welfare state in the European Union, in which it highlights the serious damage that budget cuts — particularly in the area of social policy — have caused to the welfare state in Europe. The effects of the economic crisis and tough austerity policies have led to an increase in inequality for the most vulnerable groups in society, such as children and the elderly.

In June 2013, the European Parliament rejected a Council proposal to cut EUR 1 000 million from the budget of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived for the period between 2014 and 2020 (the current budget stands at EUR 3 500 million). The aim of the fund is to help cover the basic needs of the most vulnerable people in society.

Economic data, however, suggest that poverty will continue to rise. The European Union should therefore prevent undesirable situations by proposing more ambitious solutions to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Is the Commission considering supplementing the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived by introducing new solidarity schemes to provide the necessary resources (in addition to food) to people facing a genuine social emergency?

How can the social dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy be improved at a time when austerity is taking precedence over the safeguarding of public policy in the areas of education, health and social education?

Does the Commission agree that Europe's welfare systems are in decline?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

The Commission is aware that the financial and economic crisis and the fiscal consolidation measures necessary to deal with the sovereign debt crisis, especially in countries receiving international financial assistance, have seriously affected income poverty and inequality.

As stressed in the 2013 Annual Growth Survey, fiscal consolidation should aim at minimising adverse effects on low-income groups and preserving future growth potential. Policy-makers ([1]) do have options to affect the distributional impact of consolidation by selecting the appropriate mix of expenditure and revenue measures, their design and targeting.

The Commission welcomes the agreement between Parliament and the Council to allocate a budget of EUR 3.5 billion — consisting of an obligatory sum of EUR 2.5 billion plus a further EUR 1 billion that the Member States can provide on a voluntary basis — to the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). The Commission's proposal also requires the Member States to provide 15% of the funding, thus increasing the resources available for programmes to aid the most deprived people in society.

The Social Investment Package ([2]) sets a new agenda for social policies to help Member States modernise their social systems, address poverty and social exclusion and emerge from the crisis stronger, more cohesive and more competitive. The Package will be implemented through the European Semester and with the support of EU Funds.

([1]) See e.g. EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review, March 2013, http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=9924&langId=en
([2]) COM(2013) 83 final, 20 February 2013.
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52013DC0083:EN:NOT

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010261/13
a la Comisión
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Incremento de la demanda de mano de obra en el sector de la asistencia sanitaria

Hace unos días, la Comisión Europea publicó el último informe del Observatorio Europeo de Ofertas de Empleo, en el que se subraya el claro incremento de la demanda de mano de obra en el sector de la asistencia sanitaria (casi un 2 % anual entre 2008 y 2012). Los profesionales de los cuidados personales en servicios de salud, los profesionales de enfermería y las comadronas, los técnicos médicos y farmacéuticos y otros profesionales de la salud (como dentistas, farmacéuticos y fisioterapeutas) se encuentran entre las veinticinco profesiones con mayor crecimiento entre el cuarto trimestre de 2011 y el cuarto trimestre de 2012.

Después de los cuidados personales en servicios de salud, las profesiones con mayor crecimiento del número de personas empleadas fueron los programadores y analistas de software, los secretarios administrativos y especializados, los supervisores en ingeniería de minas, de industrias manufactureras y de la construcción y los maestros de enseñanza primaria y preescolar.

Al mismo tiempo, las cifras de desempleo en la Unión Europea continúan siendo alarmantes y el número de parados se sitúa en 26,4 millones de personas, por lo que es urgente poner en práctica medidas para dinamizar el mercado laboral.

— ¿Qué medidas podría plantear la Comisión para animar a las autoridades públicas a invertir en la formación de personas con el objeto de su inserción laboral en los sectores con mayor potencial de creación de empleo en Europa?

— ¿Cómo lograr que una parte de los recursos del Fondo Social Europeo se destinen a la formación en estas materias?

Respuesta del Sr. Andor en nombre de la Comisión
(6 de noviembre de 2013)

El documento de trabajo de los servicios de la Comisión «Plan de acción para el personal sanitario de la UE», que forma parte del paquete de medidas para el empleo ([1]), propone iniciativas concretas para apoyar el sector sanitario de los Estados miembros e impulsar la creación de empleo a medio y largo plazo. Esto ayudará a los Estados miembros a mejorar la formación de estos profesionales.

Las acciones contempladas son: prever las necesidades de personal, mejorar las metodologías de planificación en materia de personal y anticipar las aptitudes que serán necesarias en el sector. Se ha iniciado un estudio de viabilidad previo a un Consejo dedicado a esta cuestión de las aptitudes, al objeto de revisar los perfiles de competencias, en el cual los interlocutores sociales son agentes clave.

Las nuevas tecnologías para la atención sanitaria pueden mejorar la calidad laboral de quienes trabajan cuidando a familiares y, en consecuencia, atraer a más personas a este sector. Para explorar más a fondo estas oportunidades, el JRC ([2]) está estudiando el modo en que las TIC pueden contribuir a una vida independiente y mejorar los cuidados a domicilio de los ancianos ([3]), al tiempo que su investigación sobre los servicios integrados de asistencia sanitaria y social ([4]) ha puesto de manifiesto que las TIC refuerzan el papel del personal de enfermería ([5]).

Por lo que se refiere al FSE ([6]), la propuesta de la Comisión para el período 2014-2020 introduce una prioridad de inversión para mejorar el acceso a los servicios, incluidos los de asistencia sanitaria y social, en el marco del objetivo temático de la inclusión social.

El FSE financia acciones para promover el empleo e invertir en educación, y se propone cerrar el «déficit de aptitudes» ofreciendo a los solicitantes de empleo las aptitudes y cualificaciones que requiere el mercado laboral.

([1]) Documento de trabajo de los servicios de la Comisión 93 final (2012), de 18 de abril de 2012.
([2]) Centro Común de Investigación de la Comisión Europea.
([3]) El proyecto Carict ha suministrado algunos indicios del potencial de las nuevas tecnologías en apoyo de los cuidadores, que se están analizando en el proyecto ICT-AGE. Véase: http://is.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pages/EAP/eInclusion/carers.html
([4]) IPHS.
([5]) Strategic Intelligence Monitor on Personal Health Systems, Evidence Consolidation: Report on Best Practices and Key Drivers of Success http://ftp.jrc.es/EURdoc/JRC73069.pdf
([6]) Fondo Social Europeo.

A fin de garantizar los recursos adecuados para estas intervenciones, la Comisión ha propuesto que del presupuesto de la política de cohesión se destine un mínimo del 25 % al FSE, y de este, al menos un 20 % a la inclusión social. Los colegisladores están negociando todo esto, y la Comisión ha trabajado estrechamente con los Estados miembros para planificar las acciones necesarias en cada país.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010261/13
to the Commission
María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Increased labour demand in the healthcare sector

The Commission published recently the latest report by the European Vacancy Monitor which pointed to a clear rise in demand for labour in the healthcare sector (by almost 2% per year between 2008 and 2012). Personal care workers in health services, nursing staff and midwives, medical and pharmaceutical technicians, and other health professionals (e.g. dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists) are among the 25 occupations registering the most growth between the fourth quarter of 2011 and the fourth quarter of 2012.

Software programmers and analysts, secretaries in administration and specialist fields, mining, manufacturing and construction supervisors, and primary school and early childhood teachers are the occupations that had the highest growth in employee numbers after personal care workers in health services.

At the same time, unemployment figures in the European Union continue to cause alarm and the number of people out of work stands at 26.4 million. Action needs to be taken urgently to energise the labour market therefore.

— How might the Commission suggest encouraging public authorities to invest in training people so they can find work in those sectors in the EU with the greatest potential for job creation?

— What needs to be done for part of the European Social Fund to be allocated to training in these fields?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

The Commission's SWD An action plan for the EU health workforce as part of the Employment Package ([1]) proposed concrete initiatives to assist MS in the EU healthcare sector and boost employment in medium to long-term. This will help MSs in improving training in health professions.

The actions envisaged are: forecasting workforce needs and improving workforce planning methodologies; anticipating future skills needs in the health professions. A feasibility study to launch an EU skills council in this area has been launched to review the competence profiles, where social partners are key actors.

New technologies for care can improve the job quality of family employed carers, and consequently, attract more people in this sector. To further explore these opportunities, the JRC ([2]) is investigating ICT for independent living and elderly care at home ([3]) while its research on Integrated Personal Health/care Services ([4]) has identified how ICT helps enhance the role of nurses. ([5])

As regards the ESF ([6]), the Commission's proposal for the period 2014-2020 introduces an investment priority on enhancing access to services, including healthcare and social services, under the social inclusion thematic objective.

ESF supports actions to promote employment and to invest in education and aims at closing the 'skills gap' by giving job-seekers the skills and qualifications that are in demand on the labour market.

To ensure adequate resources for these interventions, the Commission proposed that a minimum share of 25% of the cohesion policy budget should be allocated to the ESF and at least 20% of this to social inclusion. This is currently negotiated by the co-legislators and the Commission has been working closely with MS in order to plan the actions needed in each country.

([1]) Staff Working Document 93 final (2012) of 18 April 2012.
([2]) The European Commission's Joint Research Centre.
([3]) Initial evidence on the potential of new technologies in support of carers has been provided by the CARICT Project, and is further being analysed within the ICT-AGE project. See: http://is.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pages/EAP/eInclusion/carers.html
([4]) IPHS.
([5]) Strategic Intelligence Monitor on Personal Health Systems, Evidence Consolidation.
Report on Best Practices and Key Drivers of Success http://ftp.jrc.es/EURdoc/JRC73069.pdf
([6]) European Social Fund.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010262/13
a la Comisión
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(12 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Incumplimiento de la Directiva sobre Morosidad — SOC

El Grupo Aula, que imparte cursos de formación para favorecer el empleo, servicio que presta bajo la financiación del Servei d`Ocupació de Catalunya [Servicio de Empleo de Cataluña] (SOC), se ve obligado al cierre de sus instalaciones y a la cancelación de los cursos de formación ante el impago de más de 500 000 euros en facturas desde 2008.

A causa de este cierre, que se suma a otros posibles ajustes por parte del grupo, se han producido despidos y se ha interrumpido el curso para medio centenar de alumnos. Tan solo han sobrevivido algunos de los programas, esencialmente con financiación estatal. El Gobierno catalán se escuda en la terrible situación económica para evitar o retrasar los pagos.

Vemos pues que la administración autonómica está incumpliendo la Directiva 2011/7/UE del Parlamento Europeo y el Consejo, de 16 de febrero de 2011, por la que se establecen medidas de lucha contra la morosidad en las operaciones comerciales, poniendo en riesgo un servicio público de gran calado como es la formación, garante de mayor oportunidades en la búsqueda de empleo y la reducción de la dramática tasa de desempleo de España. Asimismo, y tal y como indican las sentencias del Tribunal de Justicia Europeo relativas al asunto Gravier, Blaizot o las sentencias de 7 de julio de 1992 en el asunto C-295/90 o de 27 de septiembre de 1988 en el asunto 42/87, entre otras, el acceso a la educación orientada a la formación profesional se encuentra dentro de las competencias del Derecho comunitario, que debe garantizar dicho acceso.

— ¿Qué acciones piensa acometer la Comisión para que el Gobierno español y sus administraciones autonómicas cumplan la Directiva sobre Morosidad?

— ¿Cree la Comisión que las acciones de formación son un elemento importante para fomentar la inserción laboral? Considerando las sentencias del TJE, ¿cómo garantizará la Comisión el acceso a la formación profesional?

— ¿Prevé la Comisión realizar algún paquete de ayuda para fomentar esta formación y evitar el cierre de centros?

— ¿Recomendará a España fomentar instrumentos como el SOC?

Respuesta del Sr. Tajani en nombre de la Comisión
(7 de noviembre de 2013)

1. La Comisión controla rigurosamente la correcta transposición y aplicación de la Directiva 2011/7/UE en todos los Estados miembros y no dudará en adoptar medidas si constata que los Estados miembros no han transpuesto y aplicado correctamente la Directiva.

En el caso de España, la Comisión está analizando actualmente la legislación por la que se transpone la Directiva y está en contacto con las autoridades españolas para evaluar la información facilitada por España.

Además, en las recomendaciones específicas hechas a España en 2013 por la Comisión en el marco del proceso 2020, se recomendó «tomar medidas para reducir los atrasos pendientes de la Administración y evitar que se vuelvan a acumular» ([1]).

2. La Comisión considera que la formación continua es uno de los medios más eficaces para mejorar la empleabilidad de la población. También recomendó a España que potenciara la educación permanente, prorrogando la aplicación de la formación profesional ([2]).

3. En la actualidad, el Fondo Social Europeo está cofinanciando un amplio conjunto de actividades en este ámbito y continuará potenciando la formación y los programas de activación en el marco del nuevo periodo de programación, utilizando también los fondos adicionales de la Iniciativa de Empleo Juvenil (IEJ)

4. El SOC es el servicio de empleo de Cataluña y la Comisión no tiene competencias para intervenir en los organismos de los Estados miembros.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-your-country/espana/country-specific-recommendations/index_es.htm
([2]) Ídem.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010262/13
to the Commission
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Breach of the Late Payment Directive and 'SOC'

Grupo Aula receives funding from the 'Servei d`Ocupació de Catalunya' [Catalonia Employment Service], known as SOC, to run training courses for job seekers. It now finds itself forced to close its facilities and cancel training courses because it is owed more than EUR 500 000 in unpaid invoices dating back to 2008.

The closure of these facilities, which come on top of other adjustments the Group might have to make, has led to redundancies and to some 50 students having their courses interrupted. Only a few training courses have survived, basically because of state funding. The Catalan regional government is using the terrible economic situation as a shield to avoid or delay making payments.

The autonomous regional government is thus in breach of Directive 2011/7/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions. It is jeopardising a very important public service: training, which guarantees a better chance of finding work and of reducing Spain's dire unemployment rate. Furthermore, access to vocational training is one of the competences of Community law, which must guarantee access to this training. This has been confirmed by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in its judgments in the Gravier and Blaizot cases, for example, other examples being its judgments of 7 July 1992 in Case C-295/90 and of 27 September 1988 in Case C-42/87.

— What action will the Commission take to ensure the Spanish Government and its autonomous regional governments comply with the Late Payments Directive?

— Does the Commission believe that training schemes are an important factor in helping people find work? In light of the ECJ judgments, how will the Commission guarantee access to vocational training?

— Is the Commission planning any aid packages to encourage this training and stop centres being closed?

— Will it recommend that Spain promotes vehicles such as the SOC?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(7 November 2013)

1. The Commission is strictly monitoring the correct transposition and implementation of Directive 2011/7/EU in all 28 Member States and will not hesitate to take action should it find that Member States have not correctly transposed and implemented the directive.

In the case of Spain, the Commission is currently analysing the transposition law of the directive and is in contact with the Spanish authorities in order to assess the information provided by Spain.

Moreover in the Commission's 2013 Country Specific Recommendations to Spain in the framework of the Europe 2020 process, it was recommended to 'take measures to reduce the outstanding amount of government arrears and avoid their accumulation' ([1]).

2. The Commission believes that continuous training is among the most effective ways to improve the employability of the population. It was also recommended to Spain to reinforce the life-long learning by expanding the dual vocational education ([2]).

3. The European Social Fund is at present co-funding a wide range of activities in this field and will continue to reinforce the training and activation programmes under the new programming period also using the additional Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) funds.

4. e SOC is the regional employment service in Cataluña and the Commission has no prerogative to intervene in the institution settings in the Member States.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-your-country/espana/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-your-country/espana/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010263/13
to the Commission
Andrew Henry William Brons (NI)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: EUROGENDFOR

In which countries has the European Gendarmerie Force (EUROGENDFOR) been deployed since its establishment, and for what purposes?

Has it participated directly or indirectly in any situation relating to civil unrest?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(28 October 2013)

The Commission refers to its reply to questions E-003470/2012, E-003548/2012, E-003551/2012, E-003552/2012, E-2592/2013, E-2617/2013, E-2620/2013, E-2623/2013, E-2626/2013, E-2629/2013, E-2632/2013, E-2635/2013.

The European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) is not an EU body. The European Commission has no involvement in or competence for the missions, tasks, internal organisation, means or operations of EGF. EUROGENDFOR is not accountable to the Commission or to any other EU institution.

The publicly available website of EUROGENDFOR http://www.eurogendfor.eu includes some information on its deployments.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-010264/13
aan de Commissie
Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE) en Rui Tavares (Verts/ALE)
(12 september 2013)

Betreft: Belastingontwijking via Nederland door Portugese bedrijven

Uit een onlangs gepubliceerd verslag „Belastingontwijking in tijden van bezuinigingen" ([1]) blijkt dat Nederland fungeert als belastingroute voor Portugese bedrijven voor belastingplanningsdoeleinden.

1. Is de Commissie niet van mening dat Portugal door het huidige belastingstelsel in Nederland belastinginkomsten van Portugese bedrijven misloopt?

2. Is de Commissie niet van mening dat herziening van de Nederlandse belastingwetgeving die momenteel een agressieve fiscale planning door Portugese bedrijven faciliteert, een positieve uitwerking zal hebben op de verwezenlijking van de doelstellingen van het economisch aanpassingsprogramma voor Portugal?

3. Zal vicevoorzitter Olli Rehn de kwestie van de agressieve fiscale planning door Portugese bedrijven via Nederland in het kader van de komende herziening van het economisch aanpassingsprogramma voor Portugal in de Eurogroep aan de orde stellen? Zo neen, waarom niet?

Antwoord van de heer Šemeta namens de Commissie
(6 november 2013)

1. De Commissie is ook bezorgd over het aanzienlijke verlies aan belastinginkomsten waarmee de lidstaten geconfronteerd worden als gevolg van belastingontduiking of agressieve fiscale planningen door een aantal multinationals. Het is om die reden dat de Commissie op 6 december 2012 haar actieplan en twee aanbevelingen heeft gepresenteerd, en dat zij het platform inzake goed fiscaal bestuur heeft opgericht om werk te maken van deze aanbevelingen en bredere kwesties die verband houden met goed bestuur in fiscale aangelegenheden. De huidige fiscale behandeling van doorstroomlichamen door Nederland is getoetst en goedgekeurd door de Groep gedragscode (belastingregeling voor ondernemingen). De Commissie is verheugd over en draagt actief bij aan de uitvoering van het actieplan van de OESO betreffende grondslaguitholling en winstverschuiving (BEPS) waarmee onder meer de praktijk van doorstroomlichamen zal worden aangepakt.

2. De uitvoering van de aanbevelingen van de Commissie en de oplossingen die in het BEPS-project zullen worden ontwikkeld, zou de lidstaten — waaronder Portugal — moeten helpen om hun doelstellingen inzake begrotingsdiscipline te verwezenlijken. De huidige tekortkomingen in het internationale belastingstelsel zijn echter niet de verantwoordelijkheid van één land en kunnen niet met eenzijdige actie worden opgelost. Dit vereist politieke wil en actie van alle lidstaten en vaak ook op mondiaal niveau. De Commissie zal in dat verband haar steun blijven aanbieden.

3. De precieze fiscale regelingen van individuele Portugese ondernemingen zijn zeer technisch en ingewikkeld. Deze kwesties dienen op de eerste plaats te worden besproken in de Groep gedragscode (belastingregeling voor ondernemingen) die zich bezighoudt met mogelijk schadelijke regelingen van individuele lidstaten aanpakt, of via het platform inzake goed fiscaal bestuur, voor zover het systematische kwesties binnen het Europees fiscaal kader betreft.

([1]) Onderzoekscentrum multinationale ondernemingen — „Belastingontwijking in tijden van bezuinigingen, Energias de Portugal (EDP) en de rol van Nederland bij belastingontwijking in Europa", september 2013, http://somo.nl/publications-en/Publication_3987.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010264/13
à Comissão
Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE) e Rui Tavares (Verts/ALE)
(12 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: Otimização fiscal através dos Países Baixos por parte de empresas portuguesas

Um relatório recentemente publicado, «Avoiding Tax in Times of Austerity» ([1]) (Otimização fiscal em tempo de austeridade), mostra que os Países Baixos constituem um canal financeiro utilizado pelas empresas portuguesas para fins de planeamento fiscal.

1. A Comissão partilha a nossa preocupação com a perda, por parte de Portugal, de receitas fiscais de empresas portuguesas devido ao regime fiscal existente nos Países Baixos?

2. A Comissão não concorda que a revisão dos regimes fiscais neerlandeses que atualmente facilitam o planeamento fiscal agressivo por parte de empresas portuguesas seria positiva para o processo de consecução dos objetivos do programa de ajustamento económico de Portugal?

3. O Vice-Presidente Olli Rehn tenciona levantar a questão do planeamento fiscal agressivo através dos Países Baixos por parte de empresas portuguesas, no âmbito da próxima revisão do programa de ajustamento económico de Portugal, durante o Eurogrupo? Em caso negativo, por que razão?

Resposta dada por Algirdas Šemeta em nome da Comissão
(6 de novembro de 2013)

1. A Comissão partilha a preocupação de que os Estados-Membros percam receitas fiscais significativas devido à evasão fiscal ou a mecanismos de planeamento fiscal agressivo de algumas multinacionais. É por esta razão que a Comissão apresentou o seu Plano de Ação e duas recomendações, em 6 de dezembro de 2012, e estabeleceu a Plataforma para a boa governação fiscal para acompanhar essas recomendações e questões mais abrangentes relacionadas com a boa governação em questões fiscais. O atual tratamento fiscal neerlandês de empresas fictícias foi examinado e aprovado pelo Grupo do Código de Conduta (fiscalidade das empresas). A Comissão acolhe com agrado e contribui ativamente para a execução do plano de ação da OCDE contra a erosão da base tributável e a transferência de lucros (BEPS), o qual, entre outros aspetos, abordará a prática das empresas fictícias.

2. A execução das recomendações da Comissão e as soluções a desenvolver no Projeto BEPS devem ajudar os Estados-Membros — incluindo Portugal — a atingir os objetivos de consolidação orçamental. No entanto, as atuais deficiências do sistema fiscal internacional não são responsabilidade de um só país e não podem ser resolvidas através de uma ação unilateral. É necessária vontade e ação políticas por parte de todos os Estados-Membros e, frequentemente, também a nível global. A Comissão continuará a prestar a sua assistência a esse respeito.

3. Os regimes fiscais específicos das empresas portuguesas, consideradas individualmente, são altamente técnicos e complexos. Antes do mais, essas questões devem ser debatidas no Grupo do Código de Conduta (fiscalidade das empresas), que aborda regimes potencialmente prejudiciais dos Estados-Membros individualmente, ou na Plataforma para a boa governação fiscal, na medida em que se refere a questões sistemáticas no quadro fiscal da UE.

([1]) Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations — «Avoiding Tax in Times of Austerity, Energias de Portugal (EDP) and the Role of the Netherlands in Tax Avoidance in Europe», setembro 2013, http://somo.nl/publications-en/Publication_3987

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010264/13
to the Commission
Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE) and Rui Tavares (Verts/ALE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Portuguese companies avoiding tax via the Netherlands

A recently published report, 'Avoiding Tax in Times of Austerity' ([1]), shows that the Netherlands serves as a financial conduit for Portuguese firms for tax planning reasons.

1. Does the Commission share our concern that Portugal is missing out on tax revenues from Portuguese companies because of the existing tax regime in the Netherlands?

2. Does the Commission agree that revising the Dutch tax regimes that currently facilitate aggressive tax planning by Portuguese companies would have a positive impact on the progress being made towards achieving the objectives of the Economic Adjustment Programme for Portugal?

3. Will Vice-President Rehn raise the issue of aggressive tax planning by Portuguese companies via the Netherlands in the framework of the next review of Portugal's Economic Adjustment Programme during the Eurogroup? If not, why not?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(6 November 2013)

1. The Commission shares the concern that Member States lose significant tax revenues as a result of tax evasion or the aggressive tax planning arrangements of some multinationals. That is why the Commission came forward with its Action Plan and two Recommendations on 6 December 2012 and established the Platform for Tax Good Governance to follow up on these recommendations and wider issues related to good governance in tax matters. The current Dutch tax treatment of conduit companies has been reviewed and approved by the Code of Conduct Group (business taxation). The Commission welcomes and actively contributes to the implementation of the OECD Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) which will *inter alia* address the practice of conduit companies.

2. Implementing the Commission's recommendations and the solutions to be developed in the BEPS Project should help Member States — including Portugal — in achieving fiscal consolidation objectives. The current deficiencies in the international tax system, however, are not one single country's responsibility and they cannot be solved by unilateral action. It requires political willingness and action from all Member States and often also globally. The Commission will continue to offer its assistance in that respect.

3. The detailed tax arrangements of individual Portuguese companies are highly technical and complex. These issues should primarily be discussed at the Code of Conduct Group (business taxation) which addresses potentially harmful regimes of individual Member States, or by the Platform for Tax Good Governance, to the extent that it concerns systematic issues within the EU tax framework.

([1]) Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations — 'Avoiding Tax in Times of Austerity, Energias de Portugal (EDP) and the Role of the Netherlands in Tax Avoidance in Europe', September 2013, http://somo.nl/publications-en/Publication_3987.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010265/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: MALE RPAS

La Commission a-t-elle conscience de la nécessité de créer une approche européenne commune visant à développer un système d'engins volants pilotés à distance de moyenne altitude et de longue endurance (MALE RPAS)?

La Commission va-t-elle élaborer une approche innovante pour concrétiser cette ambition?

Réponse donnée par M. Tajani au nom de la Commission
(5 novembre 2013)

La Commission convient de la nécessité d'adopter une démarche européenne commune pour le développement d'un système d'aéronefs pilotés à distance de moyenne altitude et de longue endurance (MALE RPAS). L'Europe est totalement dépendante du reste du monde dans ce domaine et le développement d'un MALE RPAS européen de nouvelle génération est important pour l'avenir de notre base industrielle et technologique de défense européenne.

La Commission estime qu'un développement à l'échelle nationale n'est ni pratique ni réaliste et que les États membres devraient mettre en commun leurs ressources dans un programme militaire industriel de moyenne altitude et de longue endurance. La Commission n'a pas de rôle direct à jouer dans ce domaine, qui relève davantage de la compétence de l'Agence européenne de défense, chargée d'assister le Conseil et les États membres dans leurs efforts visant à améliorer les capacités de défense de l'Union européenne. La Commission pourrait toutefois soutenir ce programme:

— en finançant la recherche visant une double finalité dans des domaines tels que l'insertion d'un système d'aéronefs pilotés à distance dans l'espace aérien ou la charge de surveillance, recherche qui peut profiter à la fois au développement d'un système civil d'aéronefs pilotés à distance et d'un programme moyenne altitude et longue endurance;

— en promouvant la normalisation hybride et la certification à l'échelle de l'Union européenne, qui peuvent avoir un usage double et aider ainsi à réduire les coûts d'un programme MALE RPAS.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010265/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: MALE RPAS

Does the Commission realise that it needs to forge a common European approach on the development of a medium-altitude long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft system (MALE RPAS)?

Is the Commission going to come up with an innovative approach to that end?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

The Commission agrees that there is a need for a common European approach to the development of a medium-altitude long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft system (MALE RPAS). Europe is completely dependent on the rest of the world in this field and the development of a new generation European MALE RPAS is important for the future of our European Defence Technological and Industrial Base.

The Commission believes that it is neither practical nor realistic for this development to be made on a national basis and that Member States should pool ressources into a joint industrial military MALE programme. The Commission has no direct role to play in this as this may fall more in the remit of the European Defence Agency which is to support the Council and the Member States in their efforts to improve the European Union's defense capabilities. The Commission could however support such programme by:

— funding dual use research in areas like RPAS airspace insertion or surveillance payloads which can be beneficial to both the development of civil RPAS and a MALE programme;

— promoting hybrid standardisation and certification at the EU level that can be used for dual purposes and so help alleviate the costs of a MALE RPAS programme.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010267/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Principes communs contraignants en matière de procédure administrative dans l'administration de l'Union européenne

Qu'en est-il de la demande du médiateur, formulée dans sa résolution du 15 janvier 2013 à l'attention de la Commission, d'adopter des règles et des principes communs contraignants en matière de procédure administrative dans l'administration de l'Union européenne et de présenter un projet de règlement à cette fin sur la base de l'article 298 du TFUE?

Que pense la Commission des expériences glanées jusqu'à présent par le médiateur ainsi que de ses publications y afférentes? Estime-t-elle qu'elles puissent fournir une orientation en termes de contenu pour un tel projet de loi?

Ne s'agirait-il pas de la meilleure manière d'assurer un changement durable de la culture administrative des institutions de l'Union?

Réponse donnée par M. Šefčovič au nom de la Commission
(17 octobre 2013)

En réponse à la résolution du Parlement européen contenant des recommandations à la Commission sur un droit de la procédure administrative de l'Union européenne ([1]), la Commission a exposé le 19 juin 2013 la suite qu'elle entend donner à la résolution ([2]). En résumé, elle va à présent dresser un bilan détaillé de la situation. Dans le cadre de cet exercice, la Commission tiendra compte de tous les éléments pertinents, y compris des orientations fournies par le médiateur. Le statut impose déjà des règles strictes aux fonctionnaires de l'UE, et la Commission est soucieuse de garantir les valeurs éthiques les plus élevées dans les contacts de son administration avec le public, en pleine conformité avec le code de bonne conduite administrative.

([1]) 2012/2024(INI).
([2]) SP(2013)251; http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2012/2024(INI)&l=FR.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010267/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Common binding principles to govern administrative procedure in the Union's administration

What action has been taken following the request made by the Ombudsman to the Commission, in Parliament's resolution of 15 January 2013, to adopt common binding rules and principles on administrative procedure in the Union's administration and to submit a proposal for a regulation on that subject on the basis of Article 298 TFEU?

What view does the Commission take of the examples of best practice gathered thus far by the Ombudsman and of his related publications? Does it consider that these can inform the substance of a legislative proposal of this kind?

Would this not be the best way to bring about lasting change in the administrative culture of the EU institutions?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(17 October 2013)

In response to Parliament's resolution with recommendations to the Commission on a Law of Administrative Procedure of the European Union ([1]), the Commission has set out its intended follow-up on 19 June 2013. ([2]) In short, the Commission will now launch a detailed stocktaking exercise. In this exercise the Commission will take all relevant material into account, including guidelines from the Ombudsman. The staff regulations already impose strong rules for EU officials, and the Commission is committed to the highest ethical values in regard to contacts of its administration with the public, in full accordance with the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour.

([1]) 2012/2024(INI).
([2]) SP(2013)251; http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2012/2024(INI)#tab-0

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010269/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Horizon de secteur créatif et culturel

Pourquoi les actions proposées par la Commission dans sa communication consacrée aux SCC n'ont qu'un horizon et une portée limités?

N'est-il pas important de souligner la nécessité d'envisager les perspectives de ces secteurs à plus long terme et d'établir un programme de mesures structurées et concrètes afin de s'aligner sur la stratégie Europe 2020?

Le soutien de l'Union, des États membres et des collectivités locales à la création culturelle n'est-il pas indispensable?

Réponse donnée par Mme Vassiliou au nom de la Commission
(15 octobre 2013)

Dans sa communication intitulée «Promouvoir les secteurs de la culture et de la création pour favoriser la croissance et l'emploi dans l'Union européenne» ([1]), la Commission invite les États membres à déployer des stratégies à plusieurs niveaux ayant une triple finalité: accroître le potentiel de la culture et de la création, faire figurer ces secteurs en tête des priorités nationales de développement, et permettre la mise en œuvre de la future politique de cohésion et la réalisation des objectifs de la stratégie Europe 2020.

La Commission partage pleinement l'avis de l'Honorable Parlementaire selon lequel il est fondamental que les secteurs de la culture et de la création reçoivent le soutien de l'UE, des États membres et des collectivités locales. De fait, à long terme, l'ambition stratégique de la Commission est la reconnaissance pleine et entière du potentiel des industries culturelles et créatives et leur adéquate promotion à tous les niveaux de décision. Outre les mesures régionales et nationales de soutien, il est essentiel que la communauté artistique continue à mettre à profit toutes les possibilités existant au niveau européen, en particulier, celles offertes par les fonds de la politique de cohésion, mais aussi celles proposées par tous les programmes européens en la matière comme Europe créative, COSME, Erasmus + et Horizon 2020.

La communication de la Commission définit une vision stratégique de long terme et établit également un calendrier opérationnel à court terme. Ainsi, à l'heure actuelle, plus de 40 actions, s'inscrivant dans cinq axes d'entraînement, sont mises en œuvre dans l'ensemble de la Commission, qui poursuivra son action coordonnée dans les années à venir.

([1]) COM(2012) 537 final.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010269/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Prospects for the creative and cultural sectors (CCS)

Why are the actions proposed in the Commission's communication on the CCS of a limited scope and duration?

Should we not be taking a more long-term view when planning the future of these sectors and establishing a programme of clear and properly structured measures, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy?

Would the Commission not agree that it is essential for the CCS to receive support from the EU, the Member States and local authorities?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(15 October 2013)

The Commission Communication on 'Promoting the cultural and creative sectors for growth and jobs in the EU' ([1]) called on the Member States to develop multi-layered strategies to boost the potential of culture and creativity and to place them high on national development agendas, also with a view to the future Cohesion Policy and the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The Commission fully agrees with the Honourable Member's view that it is essential for the CCS to receive support from the EU, the Member States and local authorities. Indeed, the long-term strategic ambition of the Commission is that the economic potential of cultural and creative industries should be fully recognised and properly enhanced at all levels of governance. In addition to national and regional support measures, it is crucial that the creative community continues to make the most of all the opportunities available at EU level, in particular those of the Cohesion Policy Funds, but also the relevant EU programmes, such as Creative Europe, COSME, Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020.

While the Commission Communication laid down a long-term strategic vision, it also set a short-term practical agenda: more than 40 different actions related to five policy drivers are currently being implemented across the Commission which will pursue its coordinated action in the coming years.

([1]) COM(2012) 537 final.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010270/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Protection des enfants

La Commission compte-t-elle, comme le lui demande le Parlement, mettre en œuvre des mesures législatives et non législatives visant à garantir la protection adéquate des enfants et des mineurs non accompagnés, notamment en améliorant les méthodes permettant de trouver des solutions durables?

Réponse donnée par Mme Reding au nom de la Commission
(29 novembre 2013)

Dans sa communication intitulée «Programme de l'Union européenne en matière de droits de l'enfant», la Commission réaffirme son engagement à veiller à ce que l'intérêt supérieur de l'enfant soit au cœur de toutes les actions et politiques de l'UE concernées. Ce programme de l'UE met en avant une série de mesures concrètes ayant trait à des domaines dans lesquels l'Union peut apporter une réelle valeur ajoutée, comme la justice adaptée aux enfants, la protection des enfants en situation de vulnérabilité et la lutte contre la violence à l'encontre des enfants tant à l'intérieur de l'Union européenne qu'au-delà de ses frontières. En dehors de la législation de l'UE prévoyant des dispositions pour protéger les enfants et trouver des solutions durables ([1]), les efforts visant à promouvoir la nécessité d'une coopération renforcée entre les différents acteurs et entre les secteurs, y compris les différents ministères nationaux, font l'objet de discussions lors du Forum européen annuel sur les droits de l'enfant ([2]) et des réunions avec le groupe informel d'experts nationaux sur les droits de l'enfant. La Commission entend également aider les autorités nationales à mettre en œuvre des services efficaces et efficients, comme indiqué dans la recommandation de la Commission «Investir dans l'enfance pour briser le cercle vicieux de l'inégalité» ([3]).

Plusieurs mesures visant à améliorer la situation des enfants non accompagnés ont été prises par l'UE, notamment dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du plan d'action de l'UE pour les mineurs non accompagnés ([4]). La législation clé pour le renforcement des droits des enfants non accompagnés a été adoptée récemment; elle est constituée en particulier du régime d'asile européen commun qui a été amélioré et du code frontières Schengen. Pour parvenir à des solutions durables, la Commission continuera de travailler avec les pays tiers au sein des structures de coopération existantes, en particulier dans le cadre de l'approche globale de la question des migrations et de la mobilité (AGMM) et du processus d'élargissement de l'UE.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/eu_acquis_2013_en.pdf (en anglais).
([2]) L'édition 2013 du forum se déroulera les 17 et 18 décembre, voir: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/rights-child/european-forum/index_en.htm (en anglais).
([3]) C(2013) 778 final, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:213:0029:0040:FR:PDF
([4]) COM(2010) 213 final http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:FR:PDF

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010270/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Child protection

Is the Commission intending to act on Parliament's call and implement legislative and non-legislative measures designed to ensure adequate protection of children and unaccompanied minors, in particular by improving methods so that lasting solutions can be found?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(29 November 2013)

The Commission's communication 'EU Agenda on the Rights of the Child' reaffirms its commitment to ensure that the child's best interests are at the centre of all relevant EU actions and policies. The EU Agenda focuses on a number of concrete actions in areas where the EU can bring real added value, such as child-friendly justice, protecting children in vulnerable situations and fighting violence against children both inside the European Union and externally. Aside from EU legislation including provisions to protect children and to provide durable solutions ([1]), efforts to promote the need for stronger collaboration among different actors and across sectors, including various national ministries, are addressed at the annual European Forum on the rights of the child ([2]) and meetings with the informal Member State expert group on the rights of the child. The Commission also aims to support national authorities in delivering effective and efficient services as outlined in the Commission Recommendation 'Investing in children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage' ([3]).

Several steps to improve the situation of unaccompanied children have been taken by the EU, including as part of the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors ([4]). Key legislation to strengthen the rights of unaccompanied children was adopted recently, in particular the improved Common European Asylum System and the Schengen Borders code. In order for durable solutions to be found, the Commission will continue to work with third countries within the existing cooperation structures, in particular the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) and the EU enlargement process.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/eu_acquis_2013_en.pdf
([2]) 2013 Forum will take place on 17-18 December — see: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/rights-child/european-forum/index_en.htm
([3]) C(2013) 778 final http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/c_2013_778_en.pdf
([4]) COM(2010) 213 final http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:EN:PDF

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010271/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Droits fondamentaux des mineurs

Nous saluons l'adoption par la Commission d'un plan d'action sur les mineurs non accompagnés pour 2010-2014.

1. Cependant, pourquoi l'approche de la Commission n'est-elle pas davantage fondée sur la protection des droits fondamentaux de ces mineurs?

2. D'après la Commission, les mesures existantes sont-elles vraiment suffisantes?

3. N'estime-t-elle pas que de nouvelles mesures sont nécessaires pour assurer la protection complète des mineurs non accompagnés?

Pour rappel, l'un des objectifs du plan d'action pour les mineurs non accompagnés consistait, pour l'Union et ses États membres, à s'attaquer aux causes premières de la migration, à inscrire la question des mineurs non accompagnés dans la coopération au développement, et à contribuer, par là même, à la création de conditions sûres pour permettre aux enfants de grandir dans leur pays d'origine.

Réponse donnée par Mme Malmström au nom de la Commission
(5 novembre 2013)

Le plan d'action pour les mineurs non accompagnés (2010-2014) ([1]) indique expressément que «la Commission place les normes instituées par la convention des Nations unies relative aux droits de l'enfant au cœur de toute action concernant les mineurs non accompagnés». Plusieurs mesures ont déjà été prises, et des textes législatifs clés visant à renforcer les droits des mineurs non accompagnés ont été adoptés récemment (dans le cadre du paquet «Asile» et de la révision du code frontières Schengen).

Nous devons à présent veiller à ce que la législation adoptée soit correctement mise en œuvre, d'une manière adaptée aux enfants et respectant les droits fondamentaux de ces derniers.

La Commission soutient les travaux actuellement menés par le HCR et ses experts sur la mise en œuvre pratique de la convention des Nations unies relative aux droits de l'enfant et des principes qui y sont établis, notamment en ce qui concerne la détermination de l'intérêt supérieur de l'enfant. La Commission continuera à vérifier s'il existe des lacunes dans la protection des enfants non accompagnés dans l'Union.

Le document de travail des services de la Commission qui accompagne la révision à mi-parcours de la mise en œuvre du plan d'action ([2]) énumère plusieurs projets financés par l'Union dans les pays d'origine, dont les objectifs sont d'empêcher les migrations à risque ou la traite d'êtres humains et de soutenir la recherche des familles. Plusieurs projets financés au titre de l'aide au développement concernent spécifiquement les enfants et leur environnement dans les pays tiers. Pour la période 2007-2013, un montant de 82 millions d'euros a été dépensé spécifiquement pour promouvoir et protéger les droits de l'enfant dans les pays en développement. Le dernier appel à projets, publié en 2012, permettra de financer environ 40 nouveaux projets, en mettant l'accent sur la lutte contre toutes les formes de violence contre les enfants, y compris la traite d'êtres humains.

([1]) COM(2010) 213. Disponible à l'adresse suivante: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:FR:PDF
([2]) SWD(2012) 281. Disponible à l'adresse suivante:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/uam/uam_staff_working_document_20120928_en.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010271/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Fundamental rights of minors

We welcome the adoption by the Commission of an action plan on unaccompanied minors 2010-2014. We must, however, ask the following questions:

1. Why is the Commission's approach not based more on protecting the fundamental rights of such minors?

2. Does the Commission consider that the existing measures are really sufficient?

3. Does it not consider that new measures are required in order to provide comprehensive protection for unaccompanied minors?

We would remind the Commission that one of the objectives of the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors was for the EU and its Members States to address the root causes of migration and integrate the issue of unaccompanied minors into development cooperation, thus contributing to the creation of safe environments for children to grow up in in their countries of origin.

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

The action plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014) ([1]) specifically states that 'the Commission places the standards established by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of any action concerning unaccompanied minors'. Several steps have already been taken and key legislation to strengthen the rights of unaccompanied minors was adopted recently (in the Asylum Package and in the revision of the Schengen Borders code).

We should now ensure that the agreed legislation is correctly implemented, in a child-friendly manner and respecting the fundamental rights of children.

The Commission supports the ongoing work of UNHCR and its experts on the practical implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the principles therein, in particular on the determination of the best interests of the child. The Commission will continue to assess whether there are any gaps in the protection of unaccompanied children in the EU.

The Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the Mid-term Review on the Implementation of the action plan ([2]) lists several EU-funded projects in countries of origin, aiming at preventing risky migration or trafficking and at supporting family tracing. Several projects funded under development aid specifically target children and their environment in third countries. EURO 82 million have been spent in the period 2007-13 specifically to promote and protect child rights in developing countries. The last call, published in 2012, is going to fund about 40 new projects, focusing on the fight of all forms of violence against children including trafficking.

([1]) COM(2010) 213. Available at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:EN:PDF
([2]) SWD(2012) 281. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/uam/uam_staff_working_document_20120928_en.pdf

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010272/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Manuel juridique sur la protection des mineurs

On ne peut que regretter l'éparpillement des dispositions européennes concernant les mineurs non accompagnés.

La Commission pourrait-elle, comme le lui suggère le Parlement, réaliser un manuel à l'intention des États membres et de tous les professionnels du secteur, qui contiendrait ces différentes bases juridiques, afin de faciliter leur mise en œuvre par les États membres et de renforcer la protection des mineurs non accompagnés?

Réponse donnée par Mme Malmström au nom de la Commission
(15 novembre 2013)

La Commission soutient l'idée consistant à réaliser un manuel à l'intention des États membres et de tous les professionnels du secteur, qui regroupe les différentes bases juridiques (asile, frontières, trafics) applicables aux mineurs non accompagnés, comme l'a suggéré le Parlement européen dans son rapport d'initiative sur «la situation des mineurs non accompagnés dans l'UE» ([1]).

La Commission est d'avis qu'un tel manuel rendra la situation plus transparente pour les professionnels et clarifiera le cadre juridique à chaque étape du processus migratoire. Nous pensons qu'un tel ouvrage pourrait voir le jour dans le courant de l'année prochaine.

([1]) 2012/2263(INI).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010272/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Legal guidelines on the protection of minors

The fragmentation of the European provisions concerning unaccompanied minors is a regrettable state of affairs.

Will the Commission — as Parliament has recommended — produce a set of guidelines for the Member States and all those working in the sector which contains these different legal bases in order to facilitate their implementation by the Member States and improve the protection of unaccompanied minors?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(15 November 2013)

The Commission supports the idea of compiling a handbook, for Member States and for all practitioners, drawing together the various legal bases (asylum, borders, trafficking) applied to unaccompanied minors, as suggested by the European Parliament in its own-initiative report on 'The situation of Unaccompanied Minors in the EU' ([1]).

The Commission believes such a handbook will improve transparency for practitioners and provide clarity on the legal framework at every stage of the migratory process. We expect such a handbook could be issued in the course of next year.

([1]) 2012/2263(INI).

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010273/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Reconnaissance des métiers d'excellence

Quelle est la position de la Commission quant à la reconnaissance de la spécificité des métiers d'excellence, véritables viviers d'emplois pour l'Europe, ceux-ci reposant sur quatre critères communs à tous les SCC du haut de gamme: l'innovation et la créativité, l'excellence et l'esthétisme, le savoir-faire et la technologie, ainsi que l'apprentissage tout au long de la carrière et la promotion des connaissances?

Réponse donnée par M. Tajani au nom de la Commission
(12 novembre 2013)

Les secteurs de la culture et de la création européens ([1]), et en leur sein la mode et les industries du haut de gamme, sont particulièrement tributaires de certaines compétences et expertises provenant des métiers d'excellence. Le secteur européen du haut de gamme investit notamment dans le maintien de l'artisanat d'art européen, souvent unique au monde, et dans la transmission des connaissances aux jeunes générations ([2]).

Dans sa communication de 2012, intitulée «Promouvoir les secteurs de la culture et de la création pour favoriser la croissance et l'emploi dans l'Union européenne» ([3]), la Commission a reconnu la nécessité de relever différents défis liés aux compétences auxquels les SCC sont confrontés, notamment un manque de personnel ayant des compétences techniques et traditionnelles, y compris dans l'artisanat. Cette communication était accompagnée de deux documents de travail des services de la Commission, l'un sur le secteur européen de la mode ([4]) et l'autre sur les industries européennes du haut de gamme ([5]).

En outre, depuis 2011, le groupe informel de haut niveau sur la mode et le haut de gamme, avec la participation des PDG des plus grandes marques européennes ([6]), est un forum de discussion sur les meilleures pratiques et idées, notamment sur les moyens de soutenir les métiers d'excellence à différents niveaux (y compris par des actions d'associations du secteur, à l'échelon local et national ou à celui de l'Union européenne).

Par ailleurs, le Conseil européen des compétences pour le textile, l'habillement et le cuir ([7]) a pour but de mettre en évidence les tendances et les prévisions en matière de compétences et d'améliorer les liens entre l'industrie et les établissements d'enseignement et de formation.

Enfin, le cadre européen des certifications (CEC) rend les qualifications nationales plus lisibles en Europe, vise à promouvoir la mobilité des travailleurs et des apprenants entre pays et facilite leur formation tout au long de la vie. Les particuliers et les employeurs pourront utiliser ce cadre pour mieux comprendre et comparer les niveaux de qualification dans les différents pays et systèmes d'éducation et de formation.

([1]) SCC.
([2]) Voir document de travail des services de la Commission «La compétitivité des industries européennes du haut de gamme», SWD(2012) 286 final.
([3]) COM(2012) 537 final.
([4]) SWD(2012) 284 final/2.
([5]) SWD(2012) 286 final.
([6]) Telles que Chanel, Dior, Pucci, Zegna et MaxMara.
([7]) http://europeanskillscouncil.t-c-l.eu/eng/EuropeanSkillsCouncil.aspx.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010273/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Recognition of master crafts

What is the Commission's position on recognising the specific nature of master crafts, which are genuine sources of European jobs and are based on four criteria common to all the high-end creative and cultural sectors: innovation and creativity; excellence and aestheticism; know-how and technology, and career-long learning and the promotion of knowledge?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(12 November 2013)

European cultural and creative sectors ([1]) and within them fashion and high-end industries, are particularly dependent on certain skills and expertise stemming from master crafts. The European high-end industry in particular invests in maintaining Europe's artistic crafts, often unique in the world, and passing on the knowledge to younger generations ([2]).

In the 2012 Communication 'Promoting cultural and creative sectors for growth and jobs in the EU' ([3]), the Commission recognised the need to address various skills-related challenges that the CCS are confronted with, in particular a shortage of employees with technical and traditional skills, including crafts. This communication was accompanied by two Staff Working Documents, one on fashion industries ([4]) and another on high-end industries ([5]).

In addition, since 2011 the informal High-Level Group on fashion and high-end, with the participation of CEOs of top European brands ([6]), is a forum for discussing best practice and ideas, notably on how to support master crafts at different levels (including actions by sector associations, at local and national level or at EU level).

Moreover, the European Skills Council Textile, Leather and Clothing ([7]) aims at identifying skills trends and forecasts and of improving links between the industry and the education and training providers.

Finally, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) makes national qualifications more readable across Europe, promotes workers' and learners' mobility between countries and facilitates their lifelong learning. Individuals and employers will be able to use the EQF to better understand and compare the qualifications levels of different countries and different education and training systems.

([1]) CCS.
([2]) See Commission Staff Working Document 'Competitiveness of the European high-end industries', SWD(2012) 286 final.
([3]) COM(2012) 537 final.
([4]) SWD(2012) 284 final/2.
([5]) SWD(2012) 286 final.
([6]) Such as Chanel, Dior, Pucci, Zegna and MaxMara.
([7]) http://europeanskillscouncil.t-c-l.eu/eng/EuropeanSkillsCouncil.aspx

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010274/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Brevet Samsung préjudiciable

En novembre dernier, la Commission européenne était déjà intervenue à la suite d'un litige entre Apple et Samsung. Samsung, qui dispose de brevets appelés FRAND, refuse en effet de céder des licences d'exploitation des droits détenus sur des technologies aujourd'hui considérées comme essentielles au développement des produits concurrents.

1. La Commission partage-t-elle l'avis que Samsung abuse de ses brevets FRAND pour attaquer les autres fabricants de Smartphone?

2. Ces technologies faisant même office de norme de développement, la Commission estime-t-elle que des actions en justice contre des entreprises prêtes à payer les frais d'utilisation de ces brevets seraient anticoncurrentielles?

3. Samsung ne devrait-il pas s'engager à les céder de façon juste et à un prix raisonnable? En effet, visiblement, Samsung aurait pris pour habitude d'abuser de ses brevets pour attaquer notamment Apple partout dans le monde.

Réponse donnée par M. Almunia au nom de la Commission
(5 novembre 2013)

Dans une communication des griefs de décembre 2012, la Commission a informé Samsung de sa conclusion préliminaire selon laquelle le fait que cette société tente d'obtenir des injonctions préliminaires et permanentes devant les juridictions de différents États membres sur la base de ses brevets essentiels liés à une norme (BEN) portant sur la technologie UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System), pour lesquels ladite société s'est engagée à octroyer des licences à des conditions équitables, raisonnables et non discriminatoires (fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory — FRAND) durant le processus de normalisation à l'Institut européen des normes de télécommunications, constitue, dans les circonstances exceptionnelles de l'espèce, un abus de position dominante.

De manière générale, les détenteurs de brevets peuvent légitimement recourir à l'injonction en cas de violation de ces derniers. Toutefois, la Commission a estimé, à titre préliminaire, qu'une demande d'injonction présentée sur la base de BEN est constitutive d'un abus de position dominante dans le cas où le titulaire des BEN s'est engagé à concéder des licences à des conditions FRAND et où la société à l'encontre de laquelle une injonction est demandée n'est pas opposée à la conclusion d'un accord de licence à des conditions FRAND.

Samsung a récemment présenté à la Commission des engagements formels qui visent à répondre aux préoccupations exprimées par cette dernière dans sa communication des griefs. Le 18 octobre 2013, la Commission a officiellement demandé aux acteurs du marché de se prononcer sur ces engagements.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010274/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Samsung's misuse of patents

In November 2012, the Commission intervened following a court case involving Apple and Samsung. Samsung, which holds a series of patents known as FRAND, refuses to grant operating licences for patented technologies that are now considered essential to the development of competing products.

1. Does the Commission agree that Samsung is misusing the FRAND patents in order to damage other smartphone manufacturers?

2. Given that these technologies serve as industry standards, does the Commission feel that the court cases brought against companies that are willing to pay royalties to use the patents could be anti-competitive?

3. It has clearly become common practice at Samsung to misuse patents in order to damage Apple and other companies throughout the world. Should Samsung not undertake to grant authorisation to use its patents fairly and at a reasonable price?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(5 November 2013)

In December 2012, the Commission informed Samsung in a Statement of Objections of its preliminary conclusion that its seeking preliminary and permanent injunctions before the courts of various Member States on the basis of its standard essential patents ('SEPs') covering Universal Mobile Telecommunications Service (UMTS) technology that Samsung has committed to license on fair reasonable and non-discriminatory ('FRAND') terms during the standard setting process in the European Telecommunications Standards Institute constitutes, in the exceptional circumstances of the case, an abuse of a dominant position.

Recourse to injunctive relief is generally a legitimate remedy for patent holders in cases of patent infringements. However, the Commission's preliminary view is that the seeking of an injunction based on SEPs is an abuse of a dominant position in circumstances where the holder of a SEP has given a FRAND commitment and where the company against which an injunction is sought is not unwilling to enter into a licensing agreement on FRAND terms.

Samsung has recently submitted formal commitments to the Commission that seek to address the concerns expressed by the Commission in its Statement of Objections. The Commission has launched a formal market test on 18 October 2013.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010275/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Surcapacité de défense

Que compte faire la Commission afin de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour faciliter la restructuration et la consolidation des capacités industrielles de défense, en vue de réduire les surcapacités existantes qui ne sont pas viables?

Réponse donnée par M. Tajani au nom de la Commission
(28 octobre 2013)

Les décisions de consolidation et de restructuration restent du domaine de compétence de l'industrie même. Toutefois, la Commission s'est engagée à poursuivre l'amélioration du cadre réglementaire du marché européen de la défense.

Comme indiqué dans la récente communication sur le secteur de la défense et de la sécurité ([1]), une priorité majeure consistera à renforcer le marché intérieur de la défense et à veiller, en particulier, à ce que la directive 2009/81/CE sur les marchés publics dans les domaines de la sécurité et de la défense et la directive 2009/43/CE sur les transferts de produits liés à la défense dans l'Union soient appliquées correctement et atteignent leurs objectifs. Il devrait en résulter une amélioration de la transparence, de l'ouverture et de la compétitivité du marché de la défense, favorisant ainsi la sécurité de l'approvisionnement.

En outre, la communication présente une politique industrielle européenne adaptée qui met en avant des mesures en faveur de la normalisation et de la certification, des petites et moyennes entreprises, de l'accès aux matières premières et du développement de compétences. La Commission souligne dans cette communication qu'elle offre, en collaboration avec les États membres, un éventail d'instruments européens qui contribuent à l'acquisition de nouvelles compétences et atténuent l'impact d'une restructuration.

La communication constitue la contribution de la Commission à la réunion du Conseil européen sur la défense qui se tiendra en décembre. La Commission prendra pleinement en considération les conclusions de cette réunion pour élaborer un plan d'action plus détaillé destiné à donner une impulsion aux propositions.

([1]) COM(2013) 542 du 24 juillet 2013, «Vers un secteur de la défense et de la sécurité plus compétitif et plus efficace»: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/defence/defence-industrial-policy/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010275/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Defence overcapacity

What will the Commission do to take the necessary measures to facilitate restructuring and consolidation of industrial defence capacities with a view to reducing the existing overcapacity, which is not viable?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(28 October 2013)

While decisions on consolidation and restructuring remain with the industry itself, the Commission is committed to further improving the regulatory framework of the European defence market.

As outlined in the recent Communication on the defence and security sector ([1]), a key priority will be to further strengthen the internal market for defence, and in particular ensure that the directive 2009/81 on Defence and Security Procurement and the directive 2009/43 on intra-EU transfers of defence-related products are being correctly applied and fulfil their objectives. This should lead to increased transparency, openness and competitiveness in the defence market, thereby facilitating the consolidation of the supply side.

In addition, the communication presents a tailored European industrial policy which sets out actions in support of standardisation and certification, SMEs, access to raw materials and skills. The Commission underlined that it offers — together with the Member States — a range of European tools that foster new skills and tackle the impact of restructuring.

The communication serves as the Commission's contribution to the meeting of the European Council on defence in December. Taking full account of its conclusions, the Commission will prepare a more detailed Action Plan to take forward the proposals.

([1]) COM(2013) 542 of 24 July 2013, 'Towards a more competitive and efficient defence and security sector': http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/defence/defence-industrial-policy/index_en.htm

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-010276/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 septembre 2013)

Objet: Objectif défense et sécurité

Il faut souligner le travail accompli par la task-force de la Commission européenne sur les industries et les marchés de défense.

À ce propos, quand et comment la Commission compte-t-elle élaborer des propositions sur la manière dont des politiques et des instruments de l'Union plus étendus pourraient être utilisés, dans le cadre d'une approche flexible, pour soutenir les objectifs de défense et de sécurité, en particulier dans des domaines transversaux tels que les technologies à double usage?

Réponse donnée par M. Tajani au nom de la Commission
(29 octobre 2013)

La task-force de la Commission sur les industries et les marchés de défense a été créée pour aider la Commission à élaborer des propositions concrètes visant à renforcer le marché intérieur, à favoriser l'innovation et à accroître la compétitivité du secteur européen de la défense. La task-force a par conséquent joué un rôle important dans la préparation de la communication de la Commission intitulée «Vers un secteur de la défense et de la sécurité plus compétitif et plus efficace», adoptée en juillet de cette année ([1]).

Cette communication propose un ensemble ambitieux de mesures et de politiques pour soutenir la défense européenne. Celles-ci s'appuient non seulement sur la législation relative au marché intérieur et les politiques industrielles élaborées par la Commission mais trouvent aussi leur inspiration dans des domaines connexes comme l'espace, l'énergie et la recherche sur les technologies à double usage. La communication est actuellement examinée par les autres institutions, y compris le Parlement européen et le Conseil, puis elle fera l'objet d'un débat au sein du Conseil européen en décembre. À la suite du Conseil européen, la Commission élaborera un plan de mise en œuvre, qui tiendra compte des conclusions du Conseil européen et des avis émis par le Parlement et les autres institutions.

([1]) COM(2013) 542 final.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010276/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Defence and security objectives

The work carried out by the Commission Task Force on Defence Industries and Markets deserves acknowledgment.

In that connection: when and how does the Commission plan to draft proposals on ways of using more wide-ranging EU policies and instruments, as part of a flexible approach, to achieve defence and security objectives, with particular reference to cross-cutting areas such as dual-use technologies?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(29 October 2013)

The Commission's Task Force on Defence Industries and Markets was established to help the Commission develop concrete proposals to strengthen the internal market, reinforce competitiveness and support innovation for the European defence sector. As a consequence, the Task Force played a significant role in the preparation of the Commission's Communication on 'Towards a more Competitive and Efficient Defence and Security Sector' adopted in July this year ([1]).

This communication puts forward an ambitious range of proposed measures and policies to support Europe's defence sector. They not only draw on the Commission's internal market legislation and industrial policies but also in related areas including space, energy and research in dual-use technologies. The communication is currently being considered by other institutions, including the European Parliament and Council, and it will be discussed in the European Council in December. Following the European Council, the Commission will draft an implementation plan which will take into account the Conclusions of the European Council and the opinions received from the Parliament and other institutions.

([1]) COM(2013) 542 final.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010277/13
alla Commissione
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Chiusura del Tribunale di Bassano del Grappa in provincia di Vicenza, ed efficienza del sistema giudiziario italiano

Lo scorso marzo 2013 la Commissione europea, con la comunicazione COM(2013) 0160 final, ha presentato il «Quadro di valutazione UE della giustizia», finalizzato a promuovere l'efficacia dei sistemi giudiziari nell'Unione europea e rafforzare la crescita economica degli Stati membri. L'Italia ha recentemente disposto la soppressione di 30 tribunali e 30 procure, 220 sezioni distaccate e 667 sedi di giudice di pace. Tra questi il Tribunale di Bassano del Grappa, in provincia di Vicenza, una sede giudiziaria tra le più efficienti d'Italia, la cui operatività serve 190 mila abitanti e 20 mila attività produttive. Categorie professionali ed economiche, amministratori e cittadini si sono uniti per protestare contro una decisione che infliggerà un altro duro colpo alla competitività dell'intero sistema economico territoriale. I cittadini europei e bassanesi devono avere una giustizia che agisca in tempi brevi: oggi nel Tribunale di Bassano la durata media dei procedimenti è di circa 3 anni, ma la sua chiusura raddoppierà tale durata.

Considerato lo spreco di denaro pubblico legato alla costruzione di una nuova sede, mai inaugurata e costata 12 milioni di euro; preso atto che l'Italia è tra i sei Stati membri «problematici, soprattutto per quanto riguarda la durata dei procedimenti giudiziari e l'organizzazione della magistratura», la Commissione, che nel COM(2013) 0160 final afferma che «qualità, indipendenza ed efficienza sono le componenti fondamentali di un sistema giudiziario efficace»:

può emettere raccomandazioni in proposito ai fatti sopra esposti in ambito del semestre europeo del quadro di valutazione UE della giustizia?

Risposta di Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(13 dicembre 2013)

Il miglioramento della qualità, indipendenza ed efficienza dei sistemi giudiziari è una priorità del semestre europeo, il ciclo annale di coordinamento delle politiche economiche dell'UE. Nel 2013, in seguito ad un'analisi approfondita delle realtà nazionali, il Consiglio ha adottato raccomandazioni specifiche per 10 Stati membri (Italia compresa), con l'obiettivo di migliorare i loro sistemi giudiziari. La Commissione segue gli sforzi compiuti da tali Stati membri per riformare i loro sistemi giudiziari.

Tuttavia, nell'ambito del processo del semestre europeo, la Commissione non può intervenire su questioni specifiche, come la chiusura del Tribunale di Bassano del Grappa menzionata dall'onorevole deputato. Questo tipo di decisione è di competenza esclusiva degli Stati membri. Non vi è alcuna normativa europea riguardo al numero di tribunali o alla distanza tra i tribunali all'interno di uno Stato membro. Pertanto, la Commissione non può intervenire su questioni specifiche di questo tipo.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010277/13
to the Commission
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Closure of the Bassano del Grappa Court in the Province of Vicenza and efficiency of the Italian justice system

In March 2013, the Commission presented the 'EU Justice Scoreboard' in its communication COM(2013)0160 final, aimed at promoting effective justice systems within the EU and strengthening Member States' economic growth. In Italy, the closure of 30 courts, 30 public prosecutors' offices, 220 local divisions and 667 magistrates' courts has been announced. Among these is the court in Bassano del Grappa in the Province of Vicenza, which is one of Italy's most efficient courts and serves 190 000 residents and 20 000 businesses. Professional and trade associations, officials and members of the public have joined forces to protest against a decision that will be a further blow to the competitiveness of the country's entire economy. Both European citizens and those of Bassano del Grappa need a swift-acting justice system. At present, the average duration of proceedings before the Bassano court is around three years and this will double if it closes.

Public money was wasted to the tune of EUR 12 million on building a new court house which was never officially opened. Italy is among the six Member States 'having challenges, particularly with regard to the length of judicial proceedings and the organisation of the judiciary'. Given that in its communication COM(2013)0160 final the Commission states that 'quality, independence and efficiency are the key components of an effective justice system', can the Commission issue recommendations in connection with the situation described above, within the framework of the EU Justice Scoreboard and the European Semester?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(13 December 2013)

The improvement of the quality, independence and efficiency of judicial systems is a priority in the European Semester, the EU annual cycle of economic policy coordination. In 2013, as a result of a thorough country analysis, country specific recommendations were adopted by the Council for 10 Member States, including Italy, to improve their justice systems. The Commission is following the efforts of these Member States to reform their judicial systems.

However, within the European Semester process, the Commission cannot intervene on specific issues such as the decision to close the Bassano del Grappa Court raised by the Honourable Member. Such a decision is under the sole responsibility of the Member States. There is no European Union legislation with regard to the number of courts, or the distance between courts inside a Member State, and therefore the Commission has no power to intervene on such specific issues.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010278/13
alla Commissione
Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE)
(12 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Parità di trattamento del corpo docente italiano

Ho ricevuto lettere di denuncia da parte del corpo docente italiano per il mancato riconoscimento dei diritti degli insegnanti abilitati in Italia tramite la frequenza ed il superamento del Tirocinio Formativo Attivo (TFA) (ai sensi del D.M. 249/10). Sembra che la legislazione italiana li discrimini rispetto ad altre figure professionali, per le quali è stata sancita la recente integrazione nelle Graduatorie ad esaurimento (GaE), uno dei due canali validi ai fini dell'immissione in ruolo a tempo indeterminato. Il D.M. 572/13, infatti, integra nelle suddette Graduatorie solo gli abilitati che hanno conseguito il titolo in uno dei Paesi UE entro l'anno 2009, lasciando fuori gli abilitati europei che lo hanno conseguito successivamente e chi, congelando il vecchio percorso di abilitazione SSIS (Scuole di Specializzazione per l'Insegnamento Secondario) e iscrivendosi con riserva nelle GaE nel 2009, ha frequentato lo stesso corso di TFA durante lo scorso anno accademico.

Così sembra si sia sancita una disparità di trattamento, riconoscendo agli abilitati negli Stati UE entro il 2009, in seguito ad una procedura di infrazione avviata dalla Commissione europea nei confronti dello Stato italiano, il diritto ad essere inseriti nelle Graduatorie ad esaurimento con il medesimo punteggio dei docenti abilitati SSIS e negando, invece, tale diritto agli abilitati che hanno frequentato un corso equipollente in Italia, violando così di fatto la direttiva 36/2005/CE.

Chiediamo alla Commissione:

— se è a conoscenza di questa discrepanza tra le varie figure di docenti abilitati tramite percorsi di formazione a numero chiuso (SSIS e TFA)

— se ritiene in atto un restringimento del principio della parità di trattamento tra le stesse figure professionali.

Risposta di László Andor a nome della Commissione
(7 novembre 2013)

A condizione che venga rispettata la normativa dell'UE (*le disposizioni in materia di libera circolazione dei lavoratori nonché la direttiva 2005/36 relativa al riconoscimento delle qualifiche professionali*), le qualifiche richieste per la selezione dei docenti sono di competenza degli Stati membri, in quanto responsabili primari del contenuto dell'insegnamento nonché dell'organizzazione dei loro sistemi d'istruzione (articolo 165 del trattato sul funzionamento dell'Unione europea). La Commissione non ha pertanto alcuna competenza per intervenire in tale contesto.

La procedura di infrazione alla quale si riferisce l'onorevole deputato riguarda la discriminazione per motivi di nazionalità, in particolare il fatto che, ai fini del punteggio per le graduatorie del personale docente, prima del decreto ministeriale n. 572/2013 la legge italiana attribuiva punteggio aggiuntivo solo a determinate qualifiche conseguite in Italia. Dopo l'entrata in vigore del decreto ministeriale n. 572/2013 sono considerate per l'attribuzione di punteggio aggiuntivo anche le qualifiche simili acquisite in altri Stati membri. Questo è in linea con la direttiva 2005/36/CE in virtù della quale una qualifica professionale, una volta riconosciuta, conferisce al titolare il diritto di esercitare la professione alle stesse condizioni dei cittadini dello Stato in questione.

Secondo la Commissione il fatto che la qualifica italiana ottenuta a seguito del completamento di un corso di formazione (tirocinio formativo attivo o «TFA») non figuri fra le qualifiche considerate dall'Italia per l'assegnazione di punteggio aggiuntivo è da considerarsi una questione puramente interna che non richiede l'applicazione di disposizioni di legge dell'UE.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010278/13
to the Commission
Niccolò Rinaldi (ALDE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Equal treatment of Italian teaching staff

I have received a letter from teaching staff in Italy complaining at the failure to recognise the rights of teachers who have successfully completed the Active Teaching Traineeship course (Tirocinio Formativo Attivo or 'TFA') established pursuant to Ministerial Decree No 249/2010). Italian law would appear to discriminate against them in comparison to other teachers, who have recently been included on reserve lists for qualified staff (graduatorie ad esaurimento or 'GaEs'), with this being one of the two ways in which teachers can be awarded an open-ended contract. Indeed, under Ministerial Decree No 572/2013, only teachers who qualified in an EU country prior to 2009 can be entered on the GaEs, thereby excluding teachers who qualified in Europe after that date and those who put on hold their courses at Specialist Secondary School Teacher Training Colleges (scuole di specializzazione per l'insegnamento secondario or 'SSISs') and, after registering on the GaE reserve lists in 2009, followed the TFA course during the last academic year.

This inequality in treatment would appear to have been formalised, since teachers who qualified in an EU Member State prior to 2009 have, following the launch of infringement proceedings by the Commission against the Italian State, now be granted the right to inclusion on the GaEs with the same points total as teachers who qualified via an SSIS, while this right has been denied to teachers who qualified by following an equivalent course in Italy, which constitutes an infringement of Directive 36/2005/EC.

Can the Commission state:

— whether it is aware of this differentiation between teachers who have qualified via different types of training course (SSIS as opposed to TFA);

— whether it does not consider the principle of equal treatment between people in the same profession to have been curtailed?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(7 November 2013)

Provided that EC law (on free movement of workers and Directive 2005/36 on recognition of professional qualifications) is respected, the qualifications required for the selection of teachers are a matter for the Member States, as they are primarily responsible for the content of the teaching and the organisation of their education systems (Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). The Commission has therefore no competence to intervene in such matters.

The infringement procedure to which the Honourable member refers, concerns discrimination by reason of nationality and in particular the fact that, for the purposes of ranking in the reserve lists of teachers, prior to Ministerial Decree No 572/2013, Italian law awarded additional points to only certain specific qualifications obtained in Italy. After the entry into force of Ministerial Decree No 572/2013, similar qualifications obtained in other Member States are also considered for the awarding of additional points. This is in line with Directive 2005/36/EC under which once a professional qualification has been recognised it gives to the holder the right to exercise the profession under the same conditions as nationals.

The Commission's view is that the fact that an Italian qualification obtained following successful completion of a training course (Tirocinio Formativo Attivo or 'TFA') is not included among the qualifications retained by Italy for awarding additional points has to be regarded as a purely internal matter which does not call for the application of EC law provisions.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-010279/13
adresată Comisiei
Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)
(12 septembrie 2013)

Subiect: Menținerea producției de lapte în zonele de munte, zonele defavorizate și regiunile ultraperiferice după expirarea sistemului de cote pentru lapte

Renunțarea la sistemul de cote pentru lapte are efecte asupra întregii piețe europene a laptelui, iar producătorii de lapte din zonele de munte și regiunile ultraperiferice sunt cel mai grav afectați, deoarece oportunitățile de creștere rezultate în urma liberalizării nu pot fi valorificate în aceste regiuni.

Agricultura practicată în aceste regiuni contribuie în mod semnificativ la conservarea și protejarea peisajului rural și a biodiversității, precum și la limitarea pericolelor naturale, constituind baza pentru o dezvoltare regională de succes, fără de care alte domenii economice, în special turismul, nu se pot dezvolta.

Având în vedere că producțiile de lapte sunt mult mai mari în aceste regiuni decât în regiunile situate în locuri mai favorabile și reprezintă cea mai importantă ramură a producției agricole, ce măsuri are în vedere Comisia pentru a sprijini producătorii de lapte și, implicit, pentru a contribui la protejarea acestor regiuni de munte, defavorizate și ultraperiferice, astfel încât să se poată evita renunțarea la creșterea animalelor și producția de lapte, care, de multe ori, are drept rezultat renunțarea la agricultură și mutarea populației?

Răspuns dat de dl Cioloș în numele Comisiei
(21 octombrie 2013)

Cadrul PAC prevede instrumente și oferă statelor membre o marjă de manevră pentru a oferi sprijin specific în vederea menținereii producției de lapte în zonele caracterizate de constrângeri naturale specifice, inclusiv în zonele de munte.

În baza noilor dispoziții privind plățile directe, statele membre pot decide să aplice alte sisteme, cum ar fi plăți legate de constrângeri naturale, și sprijin cuplat facultativ, pentru a direcționa ajutorul către zonele defavorizate. Definiția pajiștilor și pășunilor permanente este extinsă, lărgind domeniului de aplicare al zonelor eligibile care pot beneficia de sprijin direct. Sprijinul cuplat facultativ va fi disponibil în special pentru sectorul creșterii animalelor.

Noile normele privind dezvoltarea rurală permit statelor membre să elaboreze programe specifice pentru a aborda provocări specifice, inclusiv producția de lapte în zonele defavorizate. Intensitatea ajutorului pentru investițiile din agricultură în zonele cu constrângeri naturale poate fi majorată cu 20 %, în comparație cu alte zone. Producătorii de lapte din zonele montane pot primi o plată care să reflecte pierderile de venituri și costurile suplimentare determinate de producția laptelui în regiunile respective.

Noul regulament privind calitatea a introdus termenul de „produs montan" ca mențiune de calitate facultativă, pentru a oferi producătorilor din zonele de munte un instrument eficient pentru o mai bună comercializare a produselor lor și pentru a reduce riscurile de confuzie în rândul consumatorilor în ceea ce privește originea produselor.

Sustenabilitatea producției de lapte în zonele defavorizate a fost dezbătută pe larg în cadrul conferinței „Sectorul produselor lactate al UE, după 2015", care a avut loc în data de 24 septembrie. Raportul acestei conferințe va fi transmis Parlamentului European și Consiliului până la sfârșitul anului.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010279/13
to the Commission
Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Maintaining milk production in mountain areas, less-favoured areas and the outermost regions following expiry of the milk quota system

While the discontinuation of the milk quota system will affect the European milk market in its entirety, it is dairy farmers in mountain areas and the outermost regions that will be worst affected, because such areas are unable to harness the growth opportunities arising from the liberalisation of that market.

In these regions, farming contributes significantly to the conservation and protection of the rural landscape and biodiversity, and to limiting natural hazards. It is the basis for successful regional development, and without it there can be no expansion in other sectors of the economy, and especially in tourism.

Since milk production is much higher in these regions than in ones more favourably located, and dairy farming is the most important farming activity there, what steps will the Commission take to support dairy farmers and hence to help protect these mountain areas, less-favoured areas and outermost regions and forestall the discontinuation of stockbreeding and milk production, which in many cases results in an abandonment of farming and outmigration?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(21 October 2013)

The CAP framework provides for tools and gives Member States room for manoeuvre to provide specific support to maintain milk production in areas characterised by specific natural constraints, including mountain regions.

Under the new provisions on direct payments, Member States may decide to apply other schemes such as natural constraints payment and voluntary coupled support so as to target support to LFAs ([1]). The definition of permanent grassland and pastures is enlarged, broadening the scope of eligible areas which can benefit from direct support. Voluntary coupled support will be available in particular for the livestock sector.

New rural development rules allow Member States to design tailor-made programmes to address specific challenges, including those of milk production in LFAs. The aid intensity for farm investments in areas with natural constraints may be increased by 20% compared to other areas. Milk producers in mountain areas can receive a payment reflecting the loss of income and the additional costs deriving from producing milk in those locations.

The new Quality Regulation established the optional quality term 'mountain product' to provide mountain producers with an effective tool to better market their products and to reduce the risks of consumer confusion as to the origin of products.

The sustainability of milk production in LFAs was a largely discussed topic in the conference 'The EU dairy sector: developing beyond 2015' held last 24th September. The report of this conference will be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council before the end of the year.

([1]) Less Favoured Areas.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-010280/13
adresată Comisiei
Elena Băsescu (PPE)
(12 septembrie 2013)

Subiect: Demersurile Comisiei Europene referitoare la presiunile exercitate asupra unor ţări din vecinătatea estică

În cadrul dezbaterii Parlamentului European din data de 11 septembrie 2013, referitoare la „Presiunea exercitată de Rusia asupra ţărilor din Parteneriatul estic (în contextul viitorului summit al Parteneriatului estic de la Vilnius)", Comisarul pentru extindere şi politica de vecinătate, Ştefan Füle, a afirmat că se caută soluții pentru a mări cota totală de vin pe care Republica Moldova o exportă către UE. Această declarație vine în urma deciziei Federației Ruse de a suspenda importurile de vin din Republica Moldova.

În acest sens, poate Comisia să informeze în ce constau aceste demersuri şi când ar putea intra în vigoare ele? De asemenea, sunt avute în vedere măsuri similare şi pentru alte categorii de produse?

Nu în ultimul rând, care sunt demersurile întreprinse de Comisie pentru a descuraja în viitor alte forme de presiune asupra statelor din vecinătatea estică?

Răspuns dat de dl De Gucht în numele Comisiei
(30 octombrie 2013)

La 25 septembrie, Comisia a adoptat o propunere de modificare a Regulamentului (CE) nr. 55/2008 ([1]) de introducere a unor preferințe comerciale autonome pentru Republica Moldova (Regulamentul APT), pentru a deschide complet piața Uniunii Europene pentru importurile de vin din Republica Moldova, ca o modalitate de a compensa dificultățile cu care se confruntă această țară în ceea ce privește exporturile de vin către o parte dintre piețele sale tradiționale. În prezent, importul de vin moldovenesc în UE este supus unei cote anuale scutită de drepturi. Această propunere a fost deja prezentată Consiliului și Parlamentului European, iar Comisia dorește să colaboreze îndeaproape cu aceste două instituții pentru a ajunge la un acord cât mai rapid.

În ceea ce privește alte măsuri, Republica Moldova beneficiază deja de un acces foarte generos la piața europeană pentru toate produsele sale, cu puține excepții. Cu toate acestea, pentru anumite produse moldovenești, cum ar fi cele de origine animală, accesul la piața UE este foarte limitat, deoarece produsele nu sunt conforme cu standardele sanitare și fitosanitare europene. Regulamentul APT nu este instrumentul care poate ajuta la soluționarea acestei probleme. Dispozițiile referitoare la zona de liber schimb complex și cuprinzător din viitorul acord de asociere sunt menite să rezolve această chestiune. Comisia depune toate eforturile pentru a pregăti acordul de asociere pentru parafare și semnare cât mai rapid, pentru a permite intrarea sa în vigoare imediată prin aplicarea provizorie a dispozițiilor comerciale.

De asemenea, în prezent, Comisia, la solicitarea Republicii Moldova, pregătește o evaluare *inter pares* pentru a analiza situația actuală privind controalele de siguranță alimentară în sectorul vitivinicol, precum și în cel al producției de struguri și mere.

([1]) JO L 20, 24.1.2008, p. 1.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010280/13
to the Commission
Elena Băsescu (PPE)
(12 September 2013)

Subject: Action by the Commission in response to pressure on Eastern European partners

In the course of European Parliament deliberations on 11 September 2013 concerning pressure being brought to bear by Russia on Eastern European partners (in connection with the forthcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius), Stefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, indicated that the Union was looking into ways of increasing EU import quotas for Moldovan wine in the wake of Russia's decision to suspend its own wine imports from Moldova.

In view of this, can the Commission say exactly what measures will be taken and when they might enter into force? Are similar measures being envisaged for other product categories?

What measures have been taken by the Commission to discourage any form of pressure being brought to bear on our Eastern European partners in future?

Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission
(30 October 2013)

On 25 September the Commission adopted a proposal to amend Council Regulation (EC) No 55/2008 ([1]) introducing autonomous trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova (ATP Regulation) to fully open the European Union's market to wine imports from the Republic of Moldova, as a measure to compensate for the difficulties the Republic of Moldova is experiencing with its wine exports to some of its traditional markets. Currently, import of Moldovan wine to the EU is subject to an annual duty-free quota. This proposal has been already submitted to the Council and the European Parliament and the Commission looks forward to working closely with both institutions in order to seek approval of this proposal in a swift manner.

In terms of other measures, the Republic of Moldova already benefits from a very generous access to the European market for all its products, with limited exceptions. However, for certain Moldovan products, such as those of animal origin, the access to EU market is very limited because the products do not conform with EU sanitary and phytosanitary standards. The ATP Regulation is not the instrument to help resolve this issue. The provisions of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area contained in the future Association Agreement aim to tackle this matter. The Commission is making all efforts to prepare the Association Agreement for initialling and signature as soon as possible, to enable its swift entry into force through the provisional application of the trade-related provisions.

Finally, the Commission is also currently preparing, on Moldova's request, a peer review to assess the state of play of food safety controls in the wine sector as well as grapes and apples.

([1]) OJ L 20, 24.1.2008, p. 1.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita P-010328/13
a la Comisión
Gabriel Mato Adrover (PPE)
(13 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Pago efectivo del canon por licencias de pesca

El Protocolo de pesca entre la UE y Mauritania establece una contrapartida financiera de 67 millones de euros por derechos de acceso y 3 millones de euros de ayuda financiera para el desarrollo de la pesca sostenible. El sector armador, asimismo, tiene la obligación de hacer frente al pago de las licencias de pesca para la totalidad de las licencias de pesca autorizadas.

¿Podría la Comisión informar de los cánones satisfechos hasta la fecha de hoy por los barcos que hayan utilizado licencias de pesca en virtud de la aplicación provisional del Protocolo de pesca entre la UE y Mauritania, con expresión detallada del nombre del barco, pabellón y categoría de pesca?

Respuesta de la Sra. Damanaki en nombre de la Comisión
(28 de octubre de 2013)

Un gran número de buques europeos son actualmente beneficiarios del Protocolo del Acuerdo de asociación en el sector pesquero entre la UE y Mauritania, especialmente aquellos que pescan túnidos (ES), pequeños pelágicos (LT, LV, PL, NL, PT) y peces demersales (ES).

Desde el inicio de la aplicación provisional del Protocolo (16.12.2012), las cifras relativas al número de buques y a los cánones para cada categoría son las siguientes:

— Categoría 2 (arrastreros no congeladores y palangreros de fondo para la pesca de merluza negra): 2 buques (ES) solicitaron licencias y pagaron 213 439 euros en concepto de cánones.

— Categoría 3 (buques de pesca de especies demersales distintas de la merluza negra): 4 buques (ES), 102 253 euros en cánones.

— Categoría 5 (atuneros cerqueros): 21 buques (ES y FR). Estimación de los cánones que se deben abonar: 750 000 euros (sobre la base de los datos de 2012). Categoría 6 (atuneros cañeros y palangreros de superficie): 11 buques (ES y FR). Estimación de los cánones que se deben abonar: 155 000 euros (sobre la base de los datos de 2012). Los cánones correspondientes a estas categorías no se han abonado todavía dado que las capturas definitivas no se comunicarán a Mauritania hasta el año que viene de conformidad con las disposiciones del Protocolo. El pago se efectuará en ese momento.

— Categoría 7 (arrastreros congeladores de pesca pelágica): 11 buques (LT, LV, NL, PL), 13 433 158 euros en cánones.

— Categoría 8 (buques de pesca pelágica en fresco): 2 buques (PT), 20 172 euros en cánones.

Estas cifras son de carácter provisional. Dado que solo engloban una parte del primer año de aplicación del nuevo Protocolo (8 meses), no incluyen actualizaciones de las capturas, en particular las vinculadas a los atuneros, ni el posible aumento del uso de la categoría camaronera (categoría 1).

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010328/13
to the Commission
Gabriel Mato Adrover (PPE)
(13 September 2013)

Subject: Payment of fishing licence fee

The fisheries protocol between the EU and Mauritania establishes a financial contribution amounting to EUR 67 million for access rights and EUR 3 million in financial aid for the development of sustainable fishing. Shipowners must also pay fishing licence fees for all fishing licences issued.

Can the Commission provide information on the fees paid to date by vessels that have used fishing licences by virtue of the provisional application of the fisheries protocol between the EU and Mauritania, providing details of the name of the vessel, its flag and the respective fishing category?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(28 October 2013)

A large number of European vessels is currently benefitting from the EU-Mauritania FPA protocol, especially those fishing for tunas (ES), small pelagics (LT, LV, PL, NL, PT) and demersal finfish (ES).

Since the beginning of the provisional application of the Protocol (16/12/2012), the figures in terms of number of vessels and fees per category are the following:

— Category C (Black Hake non-freezer trawlers and bottom longliners) — 2 vessels (ES) applied for licences and paid EUR 213 439 for fees

— Category C (Vessels fishing for demersal species other than black hake) — 4 vessels (ES), EUR 102 253 (fees)

— Category C (Tuna seiners) — 21 vessels (ES and FR) — Estimated fees to be paid: EUR 750 000 (based on 2012 figures) and Category C (Pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners) — 11 vessels (ES and FR) — Estimated fees to be paid: EUR 155 000 (based on 2012 figures). The fees for these categories have not been paid yet as the final catches will only be communicated to Mauritania next year in accordance with the protocol. The payment will be done then.

— Category C (Pelagic freezer trawler) — 11 vessels (LT, LV, NL, PL), EUR 13 433 158 (fees)

— Category C (Non-freezer pelagic vessels) — 2 vessels (PT), EUR 20 172 (fees)

These are provisional figures, covering only part of the first year of implementation of the new protocol (8 months) they do not include updated catches, in particular for tuna vessels, and the potential increase of the utilisation of the shrimp category (Category c).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010330/13
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(13 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Approccio multidisciplinare per il trattamento di pazienti cardiopatici

È noto come i pazienti cardiopatici siano a rischio di morte improvvisa. Per evitare ciò è possibile impiantare in tali pazienti un defibrillatore, il cui scopo è appunto quello di prevenire la morte aritmica per tachicardia ventricolare o per fibrillazione ventricolare.

L'impianto di tale dispositivo poneva tuttavia una problematica: per problemi di sicurezza, ai portatori di defibrillatori impiantabili era vietato sottoporsi all'esame a risonanza magnetica nucleare, di fondamentale importanza per diagnosticare cancro e ictus.

Recentemente è stato sviluppato un defibrillatore, tra i più piccoli al mondo, che permette all'individuo di sottoporsi anche alla risonanza magnetica. Il procedimento è semplice: il medico, quando deve svolgere tale esame, modifica il modo di funzionamento del defibrillatore attraverso uno strumento programmatore esterno e, una volta terminata la procedura, lo ripone al suo stato precedente.

Il dispositivo garantisce, inoltre, una durata di oltre 11 anni, minimizzando il numero di volte in cui il defibrillatore deve essere sostituito e abbassando di conseguenza tutti i rischi di complicanze relativi alla procedura.

Considerato che, ancora oggi, ogni 6 minuti si nega l'accesso alla risonanza magnetica a un paziente portatore di pacemaker o defibrillatore e che, grazie a questo dispositivo di nuova generazione, si apre una nuova era nel campo dell'elettrostimolazione del cuore, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. intende promuovere a livello europeo un approccio multidisciplinare in cui cardiologi, elettrofisiologi e radiologi uniscano le loro competenze al fine di migliorare la qualità della vita di tali pazienti?

2. Prevede di investire nello sviluppo delle innovazioni in tale campo?

Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione
(29 ottobre 2013)

Se da un lato la Commissione non intende proporre un approccio specifico multidisciplinare per gli operatori sanitari in relazione all'uso di defibrillatori cardioverter impiantabili, la Commissione sostiene la ricerca innovativa e lo sviluppo tecnologico per il tramite dei suoi programmi quadro di ricerca e innovazione e stimola la collaborazione proficua tra l'industria e il mondo della ricerca.

Anche se nell'ambito del Settimo programma quadro di ricerca, sviluppo tecnologico e dimostrazione non vi è nessuna ricerca specifica legata allo sviluppo di defibrillatori cardioverter impiantabili compatibili con la risonanza magnetica, un progetto denominato MEDDICA ([1]) ha ricevuto quasi 3 milioni di euro per costituire una Rete di formazione iniziale Marie Curie innovativa, multidisciplinare e multicentro dedicata all'ingegneria cardiovascolare ed ai presidi medici.

La proposta della Commissione in merito a Orizzonte 2020, il programma quadro per la ricerca e l'innovazione 2014-2020, offrirà opportunità per incoraggiare lo sviluppo di nuovi strumenti e tecnologie diagnostici grazie alle ricerche condotte nell'ambito del suo capitolo «Salute, cambiamento demografico e benessere».

([1]) MEDDICA — «Medical Devices Design in Cardiovascular Applications»
https://www.meddica.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=9.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010330/13
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(13 September 2013)

Subject: Multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of cardiac patients

It is well known that cardiac patients are at risk of sudden death. To avoid this risk, implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) can be inserted inside cardiac patients in order to prevent death from arrhythmia due to ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation.

However, the use of this device poses some problems: for safety reasons, ICD-users cannot undergo nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (NMRI) scans, which are of fundamental importance for diagnosing cancer or strokes.

Recently, a cardioverter-defibrillator, which is among the smallest in the world, was developed and allows the user to undergo MRI scans. The procedure is simple — when the patient needs to undergo an MRI scan, the doctor adjusts the defibrillator using an external programming instrument and, once the scan is finished, the doctor restores the defibrillator to its original setting.

The device is guaranteed to work for over 11 years, minimising the number of times the defibrillator needs to be replaced and lowering the risk of any complications arising from the procedure.

Today, once every six minutes a patient fitted with an ICD or pacemaker is being denied an MRI scan, but thanks to this next-generation device we are entering a new era in the field of electrical heart stimulation devices.

1. Does the Commission intend to promote a multidisciplinary approach at EU level whereby cardiologists, electrophysiologists and radiologists combine their skills with a view to improving the quality of life of these patients?

2. Does it plan to invest in the development of innovative ideas in this sector?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(29 October 2013)

While the Commission does not intend to propose a specific multidisciplinary approach for health professionals in relation to the use of cardioverter-defibrillators, the Commission supports innovative research and technological development activities through its Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation, and stimulates fruitful collaborations between industry and academia.

Although no specific research related to the development of Magnetic Ressonance-conditional implantable cardioverter-defibrillators is being supported by the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities, a project called MEDDICA ([1]) has received almost EUR 3 million to build an innovative, multi-disciplinary and multi-centre Marie Curie Initial Training Network focused on Cardiovascular Engineering and Medical Devices.

The Commission's proposal for Horizon 2020 — The framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020 will offer opportunities to address the development of new diagnostic tools and technologies through research under its 'Health, demographic change and well-being' societal challenge.

([1]) MEDDICA — 'Medical Devices Design in Cardiovascular Applications'
https://www.meddica.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=9

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010331/13
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(13 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Azioni UE in risposta al rapporto «The sustainable energy for all global tracking framework»

La campagna «Sustainable Energy for All» lanciata dal Segretario generale delle Nazioni Unite Ban Ki-Moon prevede tre obiettivi: assicurare l'accesso universale ai servizi energetici moderni, raddoppiare il tasso di efficienza energetica e raddoppiare la percentuale di energia rinnovabile nel mix energetico mondiale. Il rapporto «The sustainable energy for all global tracking framework», redatto per monitorare il livello di raggiungimento di questi obiettivi, evidenzia che 1,2 miliardi di persone non hanno ancora accesso all'elettricità, mentre 2,8 miliardi utilizzano legname per cucinare e riscaldare le proprie case.

Il rapporto evidenzia che la quantità di energia necessaria per produrre una singola unità di PIL è calata del 25 % nel periodo 1990-2010, mentre le rinnovabili sono arrivate a coprire il 18 % dei consumi energetici finali. Tuttavia, la crescita complessiva della popolazione mondiale ha diluito l'impatto di questi miglioramenti: se da un lato 1,7 miliardi di persone hanno avuto accesso all'elettricità tra il 1990 e il 2010, dall'altro lato nello stesso periodo la popolazione è aumentata di 1,6 miliardi; va segnalato, inoltre, l'incremento dei consumi finali (+1,5 % l'anno in media). Inoltre occorre notare che l'80 % delle popolazioni che non hanno elettricità vive in zone rurali, mentre due terzi si concentrano in 20 paesi dell'Africa e dell'Asia. Garantire l'accesso a moderne forme di energia, sostiene il rapporto, permetterebbe di evitare l'uso di legna, sterco e carbone per cucinare — materiali molto contaminanti in spazi chiusi, che ogni anno sono fra le cause della morte di tre milioni e mezzo di persone.

Considerato dunque:

— che la domanda continua a superare l'offerta di energia elettrica;

— che le azioni poste in essere finora non risultano sufficienti al raggiungimento dei suddetti obiettivi;

— che dal rapporto si evince che globalmente servono investimenti aggiuntivi per almeno 600 miliardi di dollari l'anno;

si chiede alla Commissione se:

1. prevede di incrementare di una quota sostanziale gli investimenti destinati alle energie rinnovabili;

2. intende attuare misure più incisive per accelerare la diffusione dell'energia verde;

3. valuta la possibilità di un'eliminazione graduale dei sussidi ai combustibili fossili.

Risposta di Günther Oettinger a nome della Commissione
(26 novembre 2013)

1) Il quadro per le politiche dell'energia e del clima all'orizzonte 2020 e gli obiettivi nazionali vincolanti hanno contribuito a forti investimenti e a una crescita nel settore unionale delle energie rinnovabili ([1]). La prossima nota orientativa della Commissione sui piani di sostegno alle energie rinnovabili e il nuovo quadro di bilancio pluriennale dell'UE promuoveranno ulteriori investimenti in materia di energie rinnovabili, nuove tecnologie energetiche e infrastrutture energetiche.

2) A inizio 2014 la Commissione presenterà delle proposte relative a un quadro per le politiche dell'energia e del clima all'orizzonte 2030, sulla base del Libro verde in materia adottato nel marzo 2013 ([2]). Una volta approvato, questo quadro offrirà un ulteriore stimolo alla crescita delle tecnologie a basse emissioni di carbonio, assicurando allo stesso tempo il passaggio ad un sistema energetico più sostenibile, competitivo e sicuro.

([1]) Nel 2011, la percentuale di energie rinnovabili nell'UE era del 13 %.
([2]) Libro verde della Commissione: Un quadro per le politiche dell'energia e del clima all'orizzonte 2030, COM(2013)169 def.

La Commissione riconosce inoltre la necessità di impegnarsi ulteriormente con i paesi terzi per sostenere gli obiettivi della campagna dell'ONU «Energia sostenibile per tutti» e potenziare i finanziamenti nel quadro dell'11° Fondo europeo di sviluppo e dello strumento di cooperazione allo sviluppo per gli esercizi finanziari 2014-2020. Le energie rinnovabili offrono notevoli e vantaggiose opportunità reciproche ai paesi in via di sviluppo, come ad esempio un migliore accesso a forme di energia pulita e maggiori possibilità di esportazione ([3]).

3) Infine, la Commissione è determinata a rispettare il principio di eliminazione graduale dei sussidi per i combustibili fossili. Sono stati già programmati alcuni aiuti di Stato per i combustibili fossili, ma sono necessari ulteriori sforzi per assicurare che le forme di sostegno dirette e indirette ai combustibili fossili siano eliminate gradualmente.

([3]) Il ricorso a vari strumenti quali, in particolare, il prestito e l'invito a presentare proposte per l'elettrificazione rurale ha permesso di mobilitare più di 600 milioni di euro dal 2012.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010331/13
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(13 September 2013)

Subject: EU measures in response to the report entitled 'The sustainable energy for all global tracking framework'

The 'Sustainable Energy for All' campaign launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has three objectives: guaranteeing universal access to modern energy services, doubling energy efficiency and doubling the proportion of the world energy mix accounted for by renewable energy. The report entitled 'The sustainable energy for all global tracking framework', drawn up to assess the progress made towards achieving these objectives, highlights the fact that 1.2 billion people still do not have access to electricity, whilst 2.8 billion use wood to cook and heat their own homes.

The report points out that the quantity of energy required to generate one unit of GDP fell by 25% over the period from 1990 to 2010 and that renewables now cover 18% of final energy consumption. However, the increase in the world population has diluted the impact of these improvements: whilst 1.7 billion people gained access to electricity between 1990 and 2010, over the same period the global population increase was 1.6 billion. The report also draws attention to the increase in final consumption. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that 80% of the people without access to electricity live in rural areas, and that two-thirds of them are concentrated in 20 countries in Africa and Asia. Guaranteeing access to modern forms of energy, the report argues, would do away with the need for people to use wood, dung and coal to cook, materials which are highly polluting in enclosed spaces, causing the deaths of more than 3.5 million people each year.

Given that:

— demand for electricity continues to outstrip supply;

— the measures taken thus far have not been sufficient to achieve the objectives referred to above;

— the report emphasises that, worldwide, additional investment of at least USD 600 billion is needed each year,

does the Commission:

1. plan to increase substantially investment in renewable energy sources?

2. intend to take more decisive measures to speed up the spread of green energy?

3. see any scope for phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(26 November 2013)

1) The 2020 climate and energy framework and the national binding targets contributed to strong investment and growth in the EU renewable energy sector [1]. The Commission's forthcoming guidance on renewables support schemes and the new EU multi-annual budget framework will promote further investments in renewables, new energy technologies and energy infrastructure

2) The Commission will come forward with proposals for a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies early 2014 on the basis of its Green Paper on this matter adopted in March 2013 [2]. Once endorsed, it will provide additional stimulus to growth in low carbon technologies, while at the same time ensuring progress towards a more sustainable, competitive and secure EU energy system.

The Commission also acknowledges the need to engage further with third countries to support the goals of the UN campaign 'Sustainable Energy for All' and to upscale funding under the 11th European Development Fund and the Development Cooperation Instrument in the budget years 2014-2020. Renewable energy offers considerable mutually beneficial opportunities to developing countries such as increasing access to clean forms of energy, and better export opportunities [3].

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(1) In 2011, the renewables share in the EU was 13%.
(2) Commission Green Paper: A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, COM(2013) 169 final.
(3) Since 2012 more than EUR 600 million were mobilised through a variety of instruments including, among others, lending and call for proposal for rural electrification.

3) Finally, the Commission is committed to the principle of phasing out fossil fuel subsidies. Some Member state aid for fossil fuel already has been clearly scheduled but further efforts are needed to ensure direct and indirect forms of support for fossil fuels are phased out.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010333/13
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(13 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Nuova tipologia di batterie low cost come possibile volano per le energie rinnovabili

Un importante istituto americano ha recentemente presentato una nuova tipologia di batterie *low cost* che potrebbe risolvere i problemi legati all'accumulo dell'energia, tipico delle fonti intermittenti come sole e vento.

All'interno delle nuove batterie sono contenuti due liquidi (una soluzione di bromo e una di idrogeno) che sono pompati attraverso un canale tra i due elettrodi al fine di generare delle reazioni elettrochimiche necessarie per produrre e immagazzinare energia.

La novità di tali dispositivi risiede nel fatto che per la prima volta non sono state utilizzate delle membrane per separare i due liquidi, ma è stato sfruttato un particolare fenomeno, il flusso laminare, che consente di far scorrere le due soluzioni in parallelo senza che provochino reazioni indesiderate. In questo modo sono stati superati due notevoli ostacoli che finora avevano limitato lo sviluppo di queste batterie: i costi troppo elevati e la scarsa affidabilità. Entrambi i problemi erano riconducibili alle membrane, elementi particolarmente costosi e facilmente corrodibili a causa dei reagenti liquidi della batteria. I ricercatori hanno anche sviluppato un modello matematico che descrive le reazioni chimiche che avvengono all'interno della batteria. Secondo i loro calcoli, il dispositivo potrebbe produrre energia a 100 dollari per kilowattora, un costo considerato «sostenibile» per le società di servizi pubblici.

Le energie rinnovabili hanno conosciuto una forte espansione ma ancora non si sono raggiunti i livelli attesi. Qualora questo sistema di accumulo dovesse risultare effettivamente meno costoso, l'utilizzo delle fonti rinnovabili sarebbe più conveniente anche in giorni/orari in cui normalmente le energie verdi non sono disponibili.

Ciò premesso, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. intende stanziare dei fondi destinati alla ricerca scientifica in quest'ambito allo scopo di verificare che tali batterie siano davvero efficaci?

2. In caso affermativo, intende promuovere la diffusione di questa tecnologia al fine di incrementare l'utilizzo delle energie pulite?

Risposta di Günther Oettinger a nome della Commissione
(21 ottobre 2013)

La Commissione concorda con l'onorevole parlamentare sull'urgente necessità di sviluppare nuovi sistemi di accumulo dell'energia, incluse nuove tipologie di batterie, al fine di integrare le reti intelligenti consentendo la presenza di livelli sempre più elevati di energie rinnovabili a minor costo. Pertanto la proposta della Commissione «Orizzonte 2020» prevede azioni ambiziose per la ricerca e l'innovazione nel settore dell'accumulo dell'energia. I progetti riguardo le batterie sono ammissibili a fruire di finanziamenti. Varie imprese europee stanno reinvestendo capitali per progetti di R&S nel settore delle batterie, sia per applicazioni fisse che mobili.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010333/13
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(13 September 2013)

Subject: New type of low-cost battery as a possible reserve for renewable energies

A major American institution recently revealed a new type of low-cost battery which could resolve the problems linked to energy storage that are typical of intermittent sources such as solar and wind power.

Two liquids can be found inside the new batteries (a bromine solution and a hydrogen solution), which are pumped through a channel between two electrodes to generate electrochemical reactions releasing energy that can be stored.

The originality of this device is the fact that for the first time, instead of using membranes to separate the two liquids a phenomenon known as laminar flow was used where the two solutions flow in parallel without provoking unwanted reactions. In this way, two significant obstacles were overcome, which had previously restricted the development of this battery. Firstly, the costs were too high and secondly, the batteries were unreliable. Both problems were linked to the membranes that are particularly expensive and easily corrodible owing to the liquid reagents in the battery. Researchers have also developed a mathematical model that describes chemical reactions within a battery. According to their calculations, the battery could produce energy at a cost of USD 100 per kilowatt, an amount considered to be 'sustainable' by utility companies.

Renewable energies have experienced strong growth but have not yet reached anticipated levels. In the event that this storage system should become less expensive, the use of renewable energies would also be more economical, even during the days/hours when green energy is not normally available.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to allocate funding to scientific research in this field for the purpose of establishing whether these batteries are really effective?

2. If so, does it intend to promote the use of this technology in order to increase the use of green energy?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(21 October 2013)

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member that all kinds of energy storage systems, including innovative batteries, are urgently needed to complement smart grids for allowing much higher shares of renewable energies at lower costs. Therefore the Commission's proposal for Horizon 2020 foresees an ambitious action on energy storage research and innovation. Such work on batteries would be eligible. Several European companies are reinvesting in R&D in batteries, both for mobile and stationary applications.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010335/13
a la Comisión
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(13 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Violación de la igualdad de acceso a la educación superior

En España, el Decreto-Ley 14/2012 estableció la posibilidad para las comunidades autónomas de fijar los precios públicos de los cursos universitarios en diversas horquillas según si era primera o posterior matriculación o con mayor o menos aplicación técnica. En el caso de la primera matrícula, se fijó la posibilidad de que estuviese entre el 15 y el 25 % del coste de los estudios.

Esto ha llevado a que la diferencia entre lo que tiene que pagar un estudiante en una comunidad autónoma y en otra llegue a representar el triple, poniendo en riesgo la igualdad de toda su ciudadanía.

Según la Declaración de la Sorbona de 1998 y la Declaración de Bolonia de 1999, los Estados firmantes se comprometen a facilitar el acceso a la universidad de sus ciudadanos y así lo asume también la Unión Europea que, en su Carta de Derechos Fundamentales de la Unión, artículo 14, defiende el derecho a la educación y al acceso a la formación profesional y permanente. La implementación del EEES es del todo imposible sin una política de acceso a la educación que no discrimine por razones económicas.

Tal y como indican las sentencias relativas al Asunto Gravier, Blaizot o el C-295/90, entre otras, el acceso a la educación orientada a la formación profesional se encuentra dentro de las competencias del Derecho comunitario. También hacen constar que la educación universitaria se incluye en dicha formación profesional.

¿Considera la Comisión que los elevados precios públicos de Cataluña limitan la movilidad de estudiantes dentro de la UE?

¿Cree la Comisión que el acceso universal a la educación superior es un elemento de vital importancia para la Europa del futuro y la salida de la crisis? ¿Plantea la Comisión algún programa de ayudas para garantizar el acceso a la educación superior en regiones golpeadas por el alto desempleo juvenil?

Respuesta de la Sra. Vassiliou en nombre de la Comisión
(13 de noviembre de 2013)

La normativa de la UE exige que se dispense igual trato a los estudiantes de otros Estados miembros que a los estudiantes nacionales de un determinado Estado miembro en lo relativo a las tasas de matrícula o a otras condiciones de acceso a la educación; sin embargo, el importe real de las tasas de matrícula que han de abonar los estudiantes deben establecerlo las universidades o las autoridades nacionales competentes en virtud del poder discrecional que les otorga el artículo 185 del TFUE. De ello se deduce que la normativa de la UE no excluye, en principio, las diferencias de trato resultantes de las diferencias en el importe de las tasas entre Comunidades Autónomas en España o entre los Estados miembros.

Los Estados miembros son responsables de la concepción de sus sistemas de financiación de la enseñanza superior. En su agenda de modernización de la enseñanza superior, la Comisión subraya la necesidad de que los Estados miembros garanticen una adecuada inversión en la educación superior, previendo al mismo tiempo sistemas de financiación para facilitar el acceso a personas con menos recursos.

Los sistemas nacionales de financiación de la educación superior y de ayuda a los estudiantes varían considerablemente entre los países de la UE, y en una mayoría de Estados miembros se cobra algún tipo de tasas de matrícula. Las pruebas procedentes de países de la UE donde existen dichas tasas demuestran que, por sí mismas, estas no constituyen un obstáculo para que los estudiantes accedan a experiencias de movilidad de gran calidad, siempre que existan mecanismos de apoyo adecuados.

El nuevo programa Erasmus+ proporcionará más oportunidades a estudiantes de la UE y de terceros países para realizar periodos de estudio o de formación en el extranjero. El apoyo a los estudiantes que asisten a centros de enseñanza superior en sus países de residencia es responsabilidad de cada Estado miembro.

Los Estados miembros de la UE han acordado el objetivo de que el 40 % de las personas de 30 a 34 años de edad de la UE hayan concluido estudios de nivel terciario o equivalente de aquí a 2020.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010335/13
to the Commission
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(13 September 2013)

Subject: Violation of the right to equal access to higher education

Spanish Decree-Law No 14/2012 established the possibility for the autonomous communities to set the public prices of university courses at various levels, based on criteria such as whether or not students are enrolling for the first time and the amount of technical application involved. For first-time enrolment, prices vary between 15% and 25% of study costs.

This means that students in one autonomous community pay three times as much as those in another, jeopardising the equality of Spanish citizens.

The States Parties to the 1998 Sorbonne Declaration and the 1999 Bologna Declaration undertake to facilitate citizens' access to university, a commitment which the EU shares, since Article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union establishes the right to education and access to vocational and continuing training. The implementation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is all but impossible without an education access policy that does not discriminate on economic grounds.

The judgments handed down in the cases of Gravier, Blaizot, and C-295/90, among others, indicate that access to vocational training falls within the competence of EC law. They also state that university education is included in such training.

Does the Commission consider that the high public prices in Catalonia limit the mobility of students within the EU?

Does it believe that universal access to higher education is vital for the EU's future and to enable it to emerge from the crisis? Will the Commission put forward an aid programme to guarantee access to higher education in regions hit by high youth unemployment?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(13 November 2013)

EC law provisions require that students from other Member States be treated on equal footing with local students as regards tuition fees or other conditions of access to education; however, the actual amount of fees charged to students is to be determined by the competent national authorities or universities, by virtue of the discretion afforded to them under Article 165 TFEU. It follows that EC law provisions do not in principle preclude differences in treatment resulting from the differences in study fees between autonomous communities in Spain or between Member States.

Member States are responsible for the design of their higher education funding systems. In its modernisation agenda for higher education, the Commission highlights the need for Member States to secure adequate investment in higher education, while also ensuring funding systems facilitate access for individuals from low income backgrounds.

National systems of higher education funding and student support vary widely across the EU and some form of study fees are charged in a majority of Member States. Evidence from EU countries where study fees exist shows that such fees do not in themselves represent a barrier to students accessing high quality mobility experiences, provided adequate support mechanisms exist.

The new Erasmus+ programme will provide increased opportunities for EU and non-EU students to spend a period studying or training abroad. Support for students attending higher education institutions in their country of residence is the responsibility of each Member State.

EU Member States have agreed that 40% of 30-34 year olds in the EU should have a tertiary education qualification or equivalent by 2020.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010383/13
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(16 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: VP/HR — Introducción de armas ligeras en Siria por parte de los EE.UU.

El pasado 12 de septiembre, el periódico estadounidense *The Washington Post* publicó una noticia según la cual la Agencia Central de Inteligencia (CIA) del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos lleva dos semanas suministrando armas ligeras y municiones a los rebeldes sirios.

Dicha noticia se produce en plenas negociaciones internacionales sobre la intervención armada en el país de Oriente Medio, y vuelve a demostrar cómo los EE.UU. continúan interfiriendo en el país que deseen, haciendo caso omiso de la comunidad internacional. Los mismos servicios secretos que violan infinidad de leyes a lo largo y ancho del mundo suministran armas a terroristas, sin que la comunidad internacional haga nada. En su clara vocación imperialista, los EE.UU. tratan de repetir la historia de 2003, cuando se produjo una invasión bajo una falsa argumentación de dicha administración.

El día anterior, el Presidente de Rusia, Vladímir Putin, escribía una carta dirigida a los Estados Unidos para argumentar la importancia de no intervenir en Siria, debido a la desestabilización que provocará en la zona. En dicha carta, el Primer Ministro apela a la cordura para respetar a las Naciones Unidas y sus decisiones, de modo que las relaciones internacionales no se conviertan en un caos global.

Son dos actos que indican dos posiciones diferentes sobre el conflicto en Siria, habiendo quedado los argumentos a favor de la intervención sin base alguna en la realidad, ya que queda clara la actitud imperialista de los EE.UU. y el empleo de sus servicios secretos para desestabilizar la región, poniendo en riesgo el Derecho internacional.

¿Conoce la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante el citado tráfico de armas por parte de los EE.UU.?

¿Piensa exigir el fin de la introducción de armas en Siria por parte de los servicios secretos de los EE.UU.?

¿Considera que la posición de los EE.UU. queda en entredicho cuando están armando a los rebeldes sirios?

Considerando la posición de Rusia, ¿piensa negociar con Rusia una posición para una salida pacífica al conflicto a través de la diplomacia que detenga las ansias belicistas de la administración Obama?

Respuesta de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta Ashton en nombre de la Comisión
(20 de noviembre de 2013)

La Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta ha reiterado en numerosas ocasiones que el conflicto sirio solo puede resolverse mediante un proceso político. La UE ha expresado su total apoyo a la organización de una conferencia de paz que convocaría las Naciones Unidas y desarrollaría el Comunicado de Ginebra acordado en junio de 2012.

La Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta está al corriente de los informes de los medios de comunicación sobre el suministro de armas a Siria por parte de Estados Unidos. También está al corriente de las entregas de armamento al régimen sirio desde hace tiempo por parte de la Federación Rusa, tal y como ha confirmado oficialmente la parte rusa. Tanto los Estados Unidos como Rusia se han situado a la cabeza de los trabajos encaminados a convocar una conferencia de paz apoyada por la UE.

La UE está en contacto con los actores principales, incluidos Estados Unidos y Rusia, para detectar las posibilidades de apoyo tangible a los preparativos, organización y seguimiento de una conferencia de paz.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010383/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — US sending light weapons to Syria

On 12 September 2013, the US newspaper *The Washington Post* reported that over the last two weeks the US Government's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been delivering light weapons and ammunition to the Syrian rebels.

This news comes in the midst of international negotiations on military intervention in the Middle Eastern country, and again shows how the United States continues to interfere in the country at will, ignoring the international community. The same intelligence services that violate countless laws throughout the world are supplying weapons to terrorists, while the international community does nothing. With a clear imperialist agenda, the United States is attempting to repeat the history of 2003, when its Government sparked an invasion under false pretences.

On the previous day, Russian President Vladimir Putin wrote a letter to the US to advocate the importance of not intervening in Syria, due to the destabilising effect it would have on the region. In the letter, the President calls for common sense and respect for the United Nations and its decisions, to prevent international relations from sliding into global chaos.

These two acts indicate two different positions on the Syrian conflict. The case for intervention has no basis in reality; the United States' imperialist attitude and the use of its intelligence services to destabilise the region is clear and jeopardises international law.

Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of this arms trafficking by the US?

Will she demand that the US intelligence services stop sending weapons to Syria?

Does she believe that the United States' position is compromised as it is arming the Syrian rebels?

Given Russia's position, will she negotiate a consensus with Moscow on a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the conflict that will stop the Obama administration's warmongering?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(20 November 2013)

The HR/VP has reiterated on numerous occasions that the Syrian conflict can only be solved through a political process. The EU has stated its full support for the organisation of a peace conference, which would be convened by the United Nations and build upon the Geneva Communique agreed in June 2012.

The HR/VP is aware of media reports of arms supplies by USA to Syria. She is also aware of the long-standing deliveries of armaments and weaponry by the Russian Federation to the Syrian regime, as confirmed officially by the Russian side. Both the United States and Russia have been at the forefront of efforts at convening a peace conference, supported by the EU.

The EU is in contact with relevant key players, including both USA and Russia, to identify possibilities of tangible support related to the preparations for, organisation of, and follow-up to a peace conference.

(Hrvatska verzija)

Pitanje za pisani odgovor P-010385/13
upućeno Komisiji
Ruža Tomašić (ECR)
(16. rujna 2013.)

Predmet: Pravo RH na proglašenje gospodarskog pojasa u Jadranskom moru

Prema UN-ovoj konvenciji o pravu mora Republika Hrvatska ima nepobitno pravo na proglašenje svog gospodarskog pojasa u Jadranskom moru. Osim toga, studija „Costs and benefits arising from the establishment of maritime zones in the Mediterranean Sea", koju je naručila Komisija, ističe i pozitivne ekonomske učinke takvog proglašenja na hrvatsku ekonomiju, ali i na ekonomije ostalih mediteranskih članica i Europske unije općenito.

Ovim putem želim vas pitati ima li Komisija formiran stav o proglašenju hrvatskog gospodarskog pojasa u Jadranskom moru i je li ta opcija dostupna Republici Hrvatskoj sa stajališta prava ili pak postoje pravne prepreke od strane Europske unije da naša država na taj način zaštiti svoje morske resurse.

Također, molila bih vas da se očitujete o tome bi li, prema vašem mišljenju, takav potez s hrvatske strane bio u skladu s politikom Europske unije i vrijednostima koje ona propagira.

Odgovor gđe Damanaki u ime Komisije
(25. listopada 2013.)

Proglašavanje isključivog gospodarskog pojasa (IGP) ostaje u nadležnosti obalnih država, dakle u EU-u to su države članice koje imaju izlaz na more. Obalne države članice, uključujući Hrvatsku, suvereno mogu odlučiti hoće li proglasiti takav pojas u skladu s Konvencijom Ujedinjenih naroda o pravu mora (UNCLOS) s ciljem osiguravanja gospodarskog potencijala svojih resursa na održiv način

Nakon što država članica proglasi IGP, te vode postaju „vode EU-a", što znači da podliježu važećem zakonodavstvu EU-a, primjerice zajedničkoj ribarstvenoj politici i zakonodavstvu Unije u području zaštite okoliša. No kada je riječ o isključivoj nadležnosti Unije, kao u slučaju očuvanja morskih bioloških resursa, predmetne države članice za taj pojas ne mogu donositi propise niti u tom području sklapati poslove s trećim zemljama i/ili međunarodnim organizacijama jer je to dio nadležnosti EU-a. S druge strane, države članice u potpunosti mogu uživati u prednostima održivog iskorištavanja resursa u svojem IGP-u.

Komisija s pozornošću prati razvoj događaja na Sredozemlju u pogledu uspostavljanja pomorskih pojaseva, među njima i isključivog gospodarskog pojasa, te u tom smislu priprema političke preporuke u skladu s UNCLOS-om. Tom će se političkom inicijativom nastojati pridonijeti potpunom iskorištavanju morskog bogatstva od strane država članica, promičući interese EU-a u području gospodarskog napretka, otvaranja radnih mjesta i rasta.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-010385/13
to the Commission
Ruža Tomašić (ECR)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: Croatia's right to declare economic zone in the Adriatic Sea

Pursuant to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Croatia has an irrefutable right to declare an exclusive economic zone in the Adriatic Sea. Additionally, a study ordered by the Commission entitled 'Costs and benefits arising from the establishment of maritime zones in the Mediterranean Sea' points out that declaring such a zone would have a positive impact not only on Croatia's economy, but on the economies of other Mediterranean Member States and the EU as a whole.

Has the Commission adopted a position on Croatia declaring an exclusive economic zone in the Adriatic Sea? From a legal perspective, is such an option open to Croatia, or does the EU impose legal constraints on our country defending its maritime resources in such a way?

According to your interpretation, would such a step on the part of Croatia be in keeping with EU policy and with the values that the EU promotes?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(25 October 2013)

The proclamation of an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) remains a national competence of coastal States and thus also of those Member States of the EU, which are coastal States. Coastal Member States, including Croatia, are sovereign to decide whether or not to proclaim such a zone in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) with the aim of securing the economic potential of their resources in a sustainable manner.

Once a Member State has proclaimed an EEZ, these waters become 'Union waters' and the applicable Union legislation, e.g. the common fisheries policy and environmental Union legislation, extends to those waters. Where the exclusive competence of the Union comes into play, as in the case of the conservation of marine biological resources, the Member States concerned may neither legislate for that zone nor enter into international undertakings with third countries and/or international organisations in this field any longer since this then falls within EU competence. On the other hand the Member States can enjoy the full advantages of the sustainable exploitation of resources in their EEZ.

The Commission follows closely the developments in the Mediterranean with regard to the establishment of maritime zones, including Exclusive Economic Zones, and is working on political recommendations to that effect in accordance with Unclos. This political initiative will aim at contributing to the full exploitation of sea wealth by EU Member States, promoting EU interests in the domain of economic prosperity, jobs and growth.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010386/13
a la Comisión
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE), Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE), Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE), Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL), Raimon Obiols (S&D), Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D) y Salvador Sedó i Alabart (PPE)
(16 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Ataques fascistas a la delegación de la Generalitat en Madrid

Durante los actos de celebración de la Diada Nacional por parte de la Generalitat de Cataluña en Madrid, se produjo un acto violento ([1]) por parte de un grupo organizado que interrumpió el acto con gritos, amenazas y agresiones como el lanzamiento de bombas lacrimógenas sobre los asistentes ([2]). Estos individuos pertenecen a Democracia Nacional y Falange Española y de las JONS, partidos de signo xenófobo y franquista aún legales en España a pesar de su claro signo antidemocrático. El caso de la Falange Española y de las JONS es especialmente grave pues fue el partido único del régimen franquista durante su sangrienta dictadura. La legislación española sanciona estas conductas con graves penas aplicadas en otros casos.

Vista la respuesta de la Comisaria Reding (E-005756/2013), en la que advierte que «todos los Estados miembros de la UE están obligados a sancionar penalmente la incitación pública e intencionada a la violencia y al odio contra grupos o personas por su raza, color, religión, ascendencia u origen nacional o étnico»; considerando que «la Comisión supervisa actualmente las medidas de aplicación de los Estados miembros y elaborará un informe al respecto a finales de 2013» y recordando el llamamiento específico al Estado español para que actúe contra los casos de fascismo; vista también la respuesta (E-006050/2013), donde aclara que, de acuerdo con la Decisión Marco 2008/913/JAI, corresponde a las autoridades nacionales investigar todo caso de incitación al odio o negación del Holocausto y perseguir a sus autores,

¿Tiene conocimiento la Comisión de estos hechos? ¿Pedirá al Estado español que desarrolle un programa de choque y lucha contra el fascismo y los partidos legales que aún lo sustentan? ¿Incorporará, asimismo, los grupos citados en esta pregunta como objeto de estudio de la red contra la intolerancia?

Respuesta de la Sra. Reding en nombre de la Comisión
(22 de noviembre de 2013)

Dentro de sus competencias, la Comisión siempre se ha comprometido con firmeza para garantizar el respeto estricto de la libertad de expresión y de reunión, ya que constituyen los cimientos de una sociedad libre, democrática y plural.

Las personas jurídicas puedan ser consideradas responsables de los delitos tipificados por la Decisión marco 2008/913/JHA, relativa a la lucha contra el racismo y la xenofobia. En la actualidad, la Comisión supervisa las disposiciones de aplicación de los Estados miembros y tiene previsto presentar un informe sobre la aplicación de la Decisión marco.

Incumbe a las autoridades responsables de los Estados miembros investigar casos individuales, incluso en relación con partidos políticos y asociaciones, a fin de determinar si pueden representar incitaciones a la violencia o al odio, y extraer las consecuencias necesarias con arreglo al Derecho penal.

En el marco de la acción «Memoria histórica activa de Europa» del programa «Europa con los ciudadanos», la Comisión apoya los proyectos de fomento de la memoria de la historia común de Europa.

([1]) http://www.publico.es/467636/un-grupo-ultra-ataca-la-libreria-catalana-blanquerna-en-la-diada
([2]) Las imágenes se pueden ver en el siguiente enlace: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo7tcorhqrU

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010386/13
to the Commission
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE), Iñaki Irazabalbeitia Fernández (Verts/ALE), Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE), Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL), Raimon Obiols (S&D), Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D) and Salvador Sedó i Alabart (PPE)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: Fascist attacks on the Catalan Government delegation in Madrid

An organised group interrupted the Catalan Government's Catalan National Day celebrations in Madrid with an act of violence ([1]) that included shouting, making threats and launching tear gas bombs at those in attendance ([2]). These individuals belong to Democracia Nacional (National Democracy) and Falange Española y de las JONS (Traditionalist Spanish Phalanx of the Assemblies of the National Syndicalist Offensive), xenophobic and Francoist parties which are still legal in Spain despite their clearly antidemocratic ideology. The case of the Falange Española y de las JONS is particularly serious as it was the sole party of the Franco regime during his bloody dictatorship. Spanish law severely punishes this kind of behaviour in other situations.

In her answer to Written Question No E-005756/2013 Commissioner Reding warned that 'all EU Member States are obliged to penalise the intentional public incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons or a member of such a group defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin'. The Commission 'is currently monitoring Member States' implementing measures and will draw up a report in this regard by the end of 2013' and the Spanish State has been specifically called on to act against cases of fascism. The answer to Written Question No E-006050/2013 states that it is for national authorities to investigate any instances of hate speech or Holocaust denial and to prosecute the perpetrators of such offences, according to Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA.

Is the Commission aware of these facts? Will it call on the Spanish State to develop a crash programme to combat fascism and the legal parties that still support it? Will it also include the groups mentioned in this question as a case study for the network against intolerance?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(22 November 2013)

Within the limits of competences, the Commission has always been strongly committed to ensure that freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are strictly respected since they lie at the very base of a free, democratic and pluralist society.

Legal persons may be held liable for the offences provided by Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating racism and xenophobia. The Commission is currently monitoring Member States' implementing measures and intends to present a report on the implementation of the framework Decision.

It is for responsible Member State authorities to investigate individual cases, including in relation to political parties and associations, to determine whether they may represent incitement to violence or hatred, and to draw the necessary consequences under criminal law.

Under the Action 'Active European Remembrance' of the 'Europe for Citizens' programme, the Commission supports projects promoting the memory of Europe's common history.

([1]) http://www.publico.es/467636/un-grupo-ultra-ataca-la-libreria-catalana-blanquerna-en-la-diada
([2]) The images can be viewed at the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo7tcorhqrU

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010387/13
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(16 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: VP/HR — Paramilitarismo en Cacarica (Chocó): inacción de la fuerza pública y del Gobierno colombiano ante el grave riesgo de incursión y masacre paramilitar

Como informa la Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz (CIJP), se están realizando operaciones paramilitares en la cuenca del Cacarica, en el Bajo Atrato, departamento de Chocó, que conllevan un peligro muy alto para la comunidad y que ha llevado a las comunidades a una situación de encierro de hecho por temor a movilizarse ante el riesgo inminente de incursión y masacre paramilitar.

Así, y a pesar de que, desde hace nueve días, fueron avisadas y tienen conocimiento de la amenaza de una incursión paramilitar en la cuenca y de la ubicación exacta de esos grupos paramilitares ilegales y sus movimientos por la zona durante los últimos días (4 de septiembre: Unguía y zonas humanitarias de Nueva Esperanza en Dios y Nueva Vida; 9 de septiembre: comunidad de La Balsa, territorio colectivo de Cacarica, Cristal, en el río Peranchito, y cerca del caserío Travesía, sobre el río Atratato; y 12 de septiembre: Lomitas, a 20 minutos de la comunidad de Bijao Cacarica y a una hora de la zona humanitaria de Nueva Esperanza en Dios), las autoridades competentes no han llevado a cabo hasta la fecha ninguna medida para garantizar la integridad y seguridad de la población de la cuenca, siendo particularmente alarmante la inacción al respecto por parte de la fuerza pública de la zona (Batallón Selva 54, bajo el mando de la Brigada XVII). A esta inacción se suma el hecho de que, a pesar de que el Comité de evaluación de riesgos y recomendaciones de medidas (CERREM), alertado por los líderes de estas zonas humanitarias, aprobó hace meses una serie de medidas de protección humanitaria, la Unidad Nacional de Protección (UNP) no ha implementado ninguna.

Los paramilitares han afirmado que van a silenciar a quienes continúan sosteniendo la existencia del desarrollo del paramilitarismo y la paraeconomía y que para ello cuentan con un listado de líderes y lideresas que señalan como miembros de las fuerzas guerrilleras.

Ante la urgencia y necesidad de que el Estado colombiano reaccione para evitar una nueva masacre paramilitar:

¿Piensa la Vicepresidenta y Alta Representante Sra. Ashton alertar de esta situación al Gobierno colombiano y solicitar que actúe inmediatamente para proteger de manera efectiva a estas comunidades y a los miembros acompañantes de la CIJP, incluyendo la verificación inmediata de las zonas indicadas, para poner fin a estos grupos paramilitares ilegales?

¿Piensa igualmente solicitar al Gobierno colombiano una investigación independiente para que se esclarezcan los hechos mencionados y la falta de reacción de los mandos regionales?

¿Está dando, o piensa dar, seguimiento la Delegación de la UE en Colombia a este caso y solicitar que la UNP implemente las medidas aprobadas por la Cerrem para evitar graves violaciones de los derechos humanos?

Respuesta de la alta representante y vicepresidenta Ashton en nombre de la Comisión
(29 de noviembre de 2013)

La alta representante y vicepresidenta ha sido alertada de la situación actual en la cuenca del río Cacarica a la que hace referencia su Señoría. La Delegación de la UE en Colombia está siguiendo de cerca la situación y se ha puesto ya en contacto con la Defensoría del Pueblo para debatir el riesgo de abusos contra los derechos humanos como consecuencia de estos acontecimientos. La Delegación de la UE en Colombia tiene también la intención de tratar este tema en una próxima reunión con la Fiscalía general de la nación y de solicitar a dicha autoridad que investigue debidamente las amenazas y otros abusos cometidos por miembros de grupos armados y enjuicie a sus autores.

Además, en el contexto de su diálogo político con Colombia, y en particular del diálogo periódico sobre derechos humanos, la UE seguirá instando a las autoridades colombianas a adoptar todas las medidas necesarias para garantizar la protección de la población contra las actividades de grupos criminales organizados y otros grupos ilegales y a intensificar sus esfuerzos para acabar con estas actividades.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010387/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Paramilitary activity in Cacarica (Chocó): the Colombian Government's and armed forces' inaction in response to the serious risk of paramilitary incursion and massacre

According to the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), paramilitary operations are taking place in the Cacarica Basin, in the Lower Atrato, Department of Chocó. These operations pose a very high risk to communities, which are effectively imprisoned for fear of moving due to the imminent risk of paramilitary incursion and massacre.

Although for the past nine days these communities have been alerted to and aware of the threat of a paramilitary incursion in the basin and of the exact location of these illegal paramilitary groups and their recent movements in the area (4 September: Unguía and the humanitarian zones of Nueva Esperanza en Dios and Nueva Vida; 9 September: village of La Balsa, collective territory of Cacarica, Cristal, on the Peranchito River, and near the hamlet of Travesía, on the Atrato River; and 12 September: Lomitas, 20 minutes from the village of Bijao Cacarica and an hour from the humanitarian zone of Nueva Esperanza en Dios), the competent authorities have thus far failed to take any action to guarantee the safety and security of the population in the basin. The inaction of the armed forces in the area (Forestry Battalion 54, under the command of Brigade XVII) is particularly alarming. Furthermore, although the Committee for the Assessment of Risks and the recommendation of Measures (CERREM), alerted by the leaders of these humanitarian zones, approved a series of humanitarian protection measures some months ago, the National Protection Unit (UNP) has not implemented any of them.

The paramilitaries have said that they will silence those who continue to point out the rise of paramilitarism and the para-economy and that, to this end, they have a list of male and female leaders who they believe to be members of the guerrilla forces.

Given the urgency and need for the Colombian Government to react to prevent a new paramilitary massacre:

Will the Vice-President/High Representative warn the Colombian Government about this situation and call on it to act immediately in order to provide effective protection for these communities and accompanying members of the CIJP, including immediately sweeping the areas mentioned, to put an end to these illegal paramilitary groups?

Will she also call on the Colombian Government to conduct an independent investigation to clarify these facts and the regional authorities' failure to react?

Is the EU Delegation in Colombia monitoring, or will it monitor, this case and call on the UNP to implement the measures approved by CERREM to prevent serious human rights violations?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(29 November 2013)

The HR/VP has been alerted to the current situation in the Cacarica Basin area as mentioned by the Honourable member. The EU Delegation to Colombia is following the situation closely and has already been in contact with the People's Ombudsmanoffice to discuss the risk of human rights abuses as a result of these developments. The EU Delegation in Colombia is also planning to raise this issue in an upcoming meeting with the 'Fiscalía general de la nación' (Office of the Attorney General) and call on these authorities to properly investigate threats and other abuses committed by members of armed groups and prosecute their authors.

Furthermore, in the context of its political dialogue with Colombian, and in particular of the regular Human Rights Dialogue, the EU will continue to call on the Colombian authorities to take all steps to ensure the protection of the population against the activities of organised criminal gangs and other illegal groups and to step up efforts to stamp out these activities.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010388/13
to the Commission
Glenis Willmott (S&D) and Claude Moraes (S&D)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: Air Quality Directive and Member States' responsibility to monitor air quality

According to the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the EU limits for nitrogen dioxide were exceeded in 40 of the UK's 43 air quality zones in 2010. Nevertheless, the UK Government has recently announced plans to close 600 air quality monitoring stations and to remove the requirement for local authorities to monitor air quality.

The Commission's answer to Question E-009266/2013 confirmed that legal proceedings may be initiated against Member States who have not complied with the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC.

Can the Commission clarify whether, under the directive, it will be looking into how Member States meet the requirements for monitoring air quality? Does the Commission believe that, by closing air quality monitoring stations, the UK Government is breaching those requirements? Would it consider opening infraction proceedings if this is the case?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(14 November 2013)

In accordance with Directive 2008/50 ([1]), Member States are under the obligation to assess ambient air quality in all their zones and agglomerations and to make sure that the limit values for the protection of human health are complied with throughout their zones and agglomerations. Ambient air quality must therefore be assessed at all locations. However, this does not mean that air quality should be measured everywhere. In accordance with Article 6, air quality 'assessment' relies on a combination of fixed measurements, modelling techniques and/or indicative measurements and (in the less polluted areas) on 'objective-estimation techniques'.

The minimum number of sampling points is determined by Annex V of the directive and depends on three criteria: population, pollutant and pollution levels. As a matter of fact, Member States tend to measure air quality in a number of sampling points which exceeds the 'minimum' required by the directive, in order to gather more evidence on the sources of pollution and to have a sound basis for modelling, all for the purpose of designing most cost-effective air pollution policies, and to meet the expectations of their citizens.

In the specific case of the UK, the Commission understands that the planned cuts have been submitted to public consultation. If the cuts are confirmed, the Commission is prepared to assess whether they are compatible with the EU requirements for monitoring air quality, and to take action where necessary.

([1]) OJ L152, 11/6/2008.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-010389/13
a la Comisión
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE), Roberta Angelilli (PPE), Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D), Alexander Alvaro (ALDE) y Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)
(16 de septiembre de 2013)

Asunto: Medidas concretas para establecer un Día Europeo contra el acoso y la violencia en la escuela

El 4 de febrero de 2013, durante la sesión plenaria del Parlamento en Estrasburgo, se notificó que la declaración por escrito sobre el establecimiento del Día Europeo contra el acoso y la violencia en la escuela se había aprobado. No obstante, la Comisión no ha anunciado todavía ningún plan concreto para su aplicación.

Además, los casos de acoso tanto en línea como «en vivo» parecen estar aumentando drásticamente. Solo en agosto de 2013, al menos tres niños pequeños se suicidaron en Reino Unido e Italia debido al acoso y al ciberacoso.

Se considera acertadamente a los niños el grupo más vulnerable de la sociedad. Un Día Europeo de este tipo podría contribuir a concienciar y transmitir un firme mensaje, especialmente en vistas a las próximas elecciones europeas. Cabe destacar asimismo que el Día Internacional de la No violencia —como se menciona en la respuesta a la pregunta escrita E-008601/2012— es una iniciativa de Naciones Unidas para promover la no violencia. Sin embargo, el acoso es un tipo específico de violencia que no siempre es física y que conlleva muchas implicaciones tanto para el acosador como para la víctima. Se trata, además, de una cuestión social muy sensible, que se da en todo el mundo y que adquiere cada vez más importancia.

Al hilo de lo anteriormente mencionado:

1. ¿Está de acuerdo la Comisión con que la lucha contra el acoso podría promoverse y, por tanto, reforzarse mediante el establecimiento de un Día Europeo contra el acoso y la violencia en la escuela? ¿Cómo prevé responder a la solicitud del Parlamento, a raíz de la aprobación de la declaración por escrito previamente citada, especialmente en la antesala de las elecciones europeas?

2. Dado que el acoso se está convirtiendo en una lacra, ¿prevé la Comisión llevar a cabo alguna medida o programa para concienciar sobre la prevención del acoso y promoverla, especialmente al hilo de los problemas de financiación del programa «Safer Internet» del mecanismo «Conectar Europa»?

Respuesta de la Sra. Reding en nombre de la Comisión
(22 de noviembre de 2013)

La Comisión ha expresado en varias ocasiones su inquietud por la violencia contra los niños, incluida la que se ejerce en los centros escolares. También ha abordado la cuestión del acoso y el *ciberacoso* en varias respuestas a preguntas escritas del Parlamento Europeo ([1]).

El acoso y el ciberacoso pueden tener un grave impacto negativo en los niños y la Comisión acoge con satisfacción las medidas que refuerzan la lucha contra estos fenómenos.

Los días 17 y 18 de diciembre de 2013, la Comisión organizará una sesión específica en el octavo Foro Europeo sobre los Derechos del Niño, haciendo hincapié en el papel de los sistemas de protección de los menores a la hora de protegerlos frente a la intimidación y el *ciberacoso*. El objetivo de esta sesión es estimular un debate sobre posibles medidas preventivas y las respuestas a la intimidación y el *ciberacoso*, y reforzar la cooperación y la ayuda entre los Estados miembros, las organizaciones internacionales, la sociedad civil y los profesionales que trabajan con y para los niños de toda la UE.

Proteger a los niños de la exposición a contenidos nocivos en línea y capacitarlos para afrontar riesgos tales como el *ciberacoso* forma parte de la Estrategia europea en favor de una Internet más adecuada para los niños elaborada por la Comisión en 2012 ([2]). Los centros para una Internet más segura han contribuido a aumentar la sensibilización sobre los riesgos en línea, como el *ciberacoso*, entre los niños, los padres y los profesores.

([1]) Por ejemplo, véanse las respuestas a las preguntas escritas P-7853/13, E-9306/12, E-8601/12, E-5052/11, E-3518/11, E-4704/10.
([2]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0196:FIN:EN:PDF

Los niños como víctimas de acoso en la escuela constituyen uno de los ámbitos prioritarios de la convocatoria destinada a subvenciones para actividades en el marco de Daphne III, cuyo plazo finaliza el 30 de octubre de 2013 ([3]). Para más información sobre programas e iniciativas en apoyo de la lucha contra el acoso y el *ciberacoso*, y el aumento de la sensibilización de la población sobre estos fenómenos, la Comisión remite a Su Señoría a la respuesta a las pregunta escritas P-007853/13, E-9306/12, y E-008601/2012.

([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just_2013_dap_ag_en.htm

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-010389/13
an die Kommission
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE), Roberta Angelilli (PPE), Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D), Alexander Alvaro (ALDE) und Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)
(16. September 2013)

Betrifft: Konkrete Maßnahmen zur Schaffung eines Europäischen Tages gegen Mobbing und Gewalt an Schulen

Am 4. Februar 2013 wurde während der Tagung des Parlaments in Straßburg die Annahme der schriftlichen Erklärung zur Schaffung eines Europäischen Tages gegen Mobbing und Gewalt an Schulen angekündigt. Indessen hat die Kommission bis heute noch keine konkreten Pläne für dessen Umsetzung vorgelegt.

Währenddessen scheinen die Mobbing-Vorfälle im Internet und in der „realen" Welt drastisch zuzunehmen. Im August 2013 alleine wurden drei Kinder im Vereinigten Königreich und in Italien in den Selbstmord getrieben, und zwar allein aufgrund von Mobbing und Internet-Mobbing.

Kinder gelten zu Recht als die verletzlichsten Bevölkerungsgruppen unserer Gesellschaft. Ein solcher Europäischer Tag könnte die Sensibilisierung der Gesellschaft fördern und würde eine eindeutige Botschaft aussenden, vor allem jetzt im Vorfeld der Europawahlen. Es sei auch darauf hingewiesen, dass der Internationale Tag gegen Gewalt, auf den in der Antwort auf die schriftliche Anfrage E-008601/2012 Bezug genommen wurde, eine Initiative der Vereinten Nationen zur Förderung der Beseitigung von Gewalt darstellt. Mobbing ist eine spezielle Form der Gewalt, die nicht immer physisch ist, und die eine breite Palette von Auswirkungen sowohl für den Täter als auch für das Opfer mit sich bringt. Mobbing ist auch ein sehr sensibles soziales Thema, denn Mobbing breitet sich immer mehr aus und ist von wachsender Bedeutung.

Kann der Rat angesichts dessen mitteilen:

1. Stimmt die Kommission dem zu, dass der Kampf gegen Mobbing durch einen Internationalen Tag gegen Mobbing und Gewalt an Schulen gefördert und intensiviert werden könnte? Wie will sie im Anschluss an die Annahme der oben erwähnten schriftlichen Erklärung und vor allem mit Blick auf die Europawahlen der Forderung des Parlaments entsprechen?

2. Da Mobbing sich immer weiter auszubreiten scheint, wird die Kommission um Mitteilung gebeten, ob sie plant, konkrete Maßnahmen oder Programme zur Sensibilisierung und Förderung der Verhütung von Mobbing zu unterstützen, vor allem in Anbetracht der Finanzierungsprobleme in Zusammenhang mit dem Programm „Safer Internet" im Rahmen der Fazilität „Connecting Europe" (CEF)?

Antwort von Frau Reding im Namen der Kommission
(22. November 2013)

Die Kommission hat wiederholt ihre Besorgnis über Gewalt gegen Kinder, unter anderem im schulischen Bereich, zum Ausdruck gebracht ([1]). Zu den Themen Mobbing und Internet-Mobbing hat sie sich auch in mehreren Antworten auf schriftliche Anfragen des Europäischen Parlaments geäußert ([2]).

Mobbing und Internet-Mobbing können erhebliche negative Auswirkungen auf Kinder haben, und die Kommission begrüßt Maßnahmen, die diese Phänomene verstärkt bekämpfen.

Am 17. und 18. Dezember 2013 veranstaltet die Kommission beim 8. Europäischen Forum für die Rechte des Kindes eine Sitzung mit dem Schwerpunkt auf der Rolle von einschlägigen Systemen beim Schutz von Kindern vor Mobbing und Internet-Mobbing. Diese Sitzung soll eine Debatte über mögliche Präventivmaßnahmen und Reaktionen auf Mobbing und Internet-Mobbing anregen und die Zusammenarbeit und die Unterstützung zwischen den Mitgliedstaaten, internationalen Organisationen, der Zivilgesellschaft und Fachkräften in der ganzen EU, die mit Kindern und für Kinder arbeiten, verstärken.

Kinder vor schädlichen Internetinhalten zu schützen und sie zu befähigen, mit Gefahren wie Internet-Mobbing umzugehen, ist Teil der Strategie der Kommission für ein besseres Internet für Kinder ([3]) von 2012. Die Safer-Internet-Zentren spielen bei der Sensibilisierung von Kindern, Eltern und Lehrern für Gefahren im Internet einschließlich Internet-Mobbing eine wichtige Rolle.

([1]) Siehe beispielsweise die „EU-Agenda für die Rechte des Kindes" unter: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com_2011_60_de.pdf
([2]) Siehe beispielsweise die Antworten auf die schriftlichen Anfragen P-7853/13, E-9306/12, E-8601/12, E-5052/11, E-3518/11 und E-4704/10.
([3]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0196:FIN:DE:PDF

Kinder als Opfer von Mobbing in der Schule sind einer der prioritären Bereiche der Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen für maßnahmenbezogene Finanzhilfen im Rahmen des Programms Daphne III, die am 30. Oktober 2013 endete ([4]). Für weitere Informationen zu Programmen und Initiativen zur Unterstützung der Bekämpfung von Mobbing und Internet-Mobbing und zur Sensibilisierung für diese Phänomene verweist die Kommission die Abgeordneten auf ihre Antworten auf die schriftlichen Anfragen P-007853/13, E-9306/12 und E-008601/2012.

([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just_2013_dap_ag_en.htm

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-010389/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE), Roberta Angelilli (PPE), Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D), Alexander Alvaro (ALDE) και Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)
(16 Σεπτεμβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Συγκεκριμένη δράση για την καθιέρωση Ευρωπαϊκής Ημέρας κατά του εκφοβισμού και της σχολικής βίας

Στις 4 Φεβρουαρίου 2013, κατά τη διάρκεια της ολομέλειας του Κοινοβουλίου στο Στρασβούργο, υπήρξε αναγγελία ότι η γραπτή δήλωση για την καθιέρωση Ευρωπαϊκής Ημέρας κατά του εκφοβισμού και της σχολικής βίας είχε εγκριθεί. Όμως, η Επιτροπή μέχρι σήμερα δεν έχει ανακοινώσει συγκεκριμένα μέτρα για την υλοποίησή της.

Επιπλέον, διάφορα συμβάντα εκφοβισμού, τόσο «online» όσο και «offline», εμφανίζονται να αυξάνονται ιδιαίτερα. Μόνο τον Αύγουστο του 2013, το λιγότερο τρία νέα παιδιά στο Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο και στην Ιταλία αυτοκτόνησαν λόγω πρακτικών εκφοβισμού καθώς και εκφοβισμού μέσω του διαδικτύου.

Τα παιδιά σωστά θεωρείται ότι είναι η πλέον ευάλωτη ομάδα στην κοινωνία. Μία Ευρωπαϊκή Ημέρα αυτού του τύπου θα μπορούσε να βοηθήσει στην αύξηση της ευαισθητοποίησης και να στείλει ένα ισχυρό μήνυμα, ιδιαίτερα ενόψει των μελλοντικών ευρωπαϊκών εκλογών. Θα πρέπει επίσης να σημειωθεί ότι η Διεθνής Ημέρα κατά της Βίας — όπως αναφέρεται στην απάντηση στη γραπτή ερώτηση E-008601/2012 — αποτελεί μία πρωτοβουλία των Ηνωμένων Εθνών για την προώθηση δράσεων κατά της βίας. Όμως, ο εκφοβισμός είναι μία ιδιαίτερη μορφή βίας η οποία δεν είναι πάντα σωματικής φύσεως και η οποία έχει ευρεία ποικιλία επιπτώσεων τόσο για τον ασκούντα αυτήν όσο και για το θύμα. Αποτελεί επίσης ένα ιδιαίτερα ευαίσθητο κοινωνικό θέμα, το οποίο διαδίδεται όλο και περισσότερο και το οποίο αποκτά όλο και μεγαλύτερη σημασία.

Υπό το φως των ανωτέρω:

1. Συμφωνεί η Επιτροπή ότι ο αγώνας κατά του εκφοβισμού θα πρέπει να ενισχυθεί και ως εκ τούτου να υποστηριχθεί με την καθιέρωση μιας Ευρωπαϊκής Ημέρας κατά του εκφοβισμού και της σχολικής βίας; Με ποιο τρόπο προτίθεται να ανταποκριθεί στο αίτημα του Κοινοβουλίου σε συνέχεια της έγκρισης της προαναφερθείσας γραπτής δήλωσης, ιδιαίτερα ενόψει των ευρωπαϊκών εκλογών;

2. Δεδομένου ότι ο εκφοβισμός τείνει να αποτελέσει μία μάστιγα, προτίθεται η Επιτροπή να προωθήσει οιεσδήποτε δράσεις ή προγράμματα για να αυξήσει την ευαισθητοποίηση και να προωθήσει την πρόληψη του εκφοβισμού, ειδικότερα υπό το φως των προβλημάτων χρηματοδότησης για το πρόγραμμα «Ασφαλέστερο Ίντερνετ» με βάση τη διευκόλυνση «Συνδέοντας την Ευρώπη»;

Απάντηση της κ. Reding εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(22 Νοεμβρίου 2013)

Η Επιτροπή έχει εκφράσει επανειλημμένα την ανησυχία της για τη βία κατά των παιδιών, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της βίας που εκδηλώνεται στα σχολεία ([1]). Έχει επίσης θίξει το πρόβλημα του εκφοβισμού και του εκφοβισμού στον κυβερνοχώρο (κυβερνοεκφοβισμού) σε πολλές απαντήσεις στις γραπτές ερωτήσεις του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου ([2]).

Ο εκφοβισμός και ο κυβερνοεκφοβισμός μπορούν να έχουν σοβαρές αρνητικές επιπτώσεις στα παιδιά, και η Επιτροπή επικροτεί τις δράσεις που ενισχύουν την καταπολέμηση των φαινομένων αυτών.

Στις 17 και 18 Δεκεμβρίου 2013, η Επιτροπή θα οργανώσει ειδική συνεδρίαση στο 8ο Ευρωπαϊκό Φόρουμ για τα Δικαιώματα του Παιδιού, αφιερωμένη στον ρόλο των συστημάτων προστασίας του παιδιού στην προστασία των παιδιών από τον εκφοβισμό και τον κυβερνοεκφοβισμό. Στόχος της συνεδρίασης αυτής είναι να δώσει το έναυσμα για διάλογο σχετικά με την ενδεχόμενη λήψη προληπτικών μέτρων και την αντιμετώπιση του εκφοβισμού και του κυβερνοεκφοβισμού και να ενισχύσει τη συνεργασία και την υποστήριξη μεταξύ των κρατών μελών, των διεθνών οργανισμών, της κοινωνίας των πολιτών και των επαγγελματιών που εργάζονται με παιδιά και για τα παιδιά σε ολόκληρη την ΕΕ.

Η προστασία των παιδιών από την έκθεση σε επιβλαβές επιγραμμικό περιεχόμενο και η παροχή σε αυτά της δυνατότητας να αντιμετωπίζουν κινδύνους όπως ο εκφοβισμός στον κυβερνοχώρο εντάσσονται στη στρατηγική της Επιτροπής του 2012 για ένα Διαδίκτυο καλύτερα προσαρμοσμένο στα παιδιά ([3]). Τα κέντρα για ασφαλέστερο διαδίκτυο (Safer Internet) έχουν συμβάλει σημαντικά στην ευαισθητοποίηση σχετικά με τους επιγραμμικούς κινδύνους, όπως ο κυβερνοεκφοβισμός, μεταξύ των παιδιών, των γονέων και των διδασκόντων.

([1]) Βλ. για παράδειγμα: Το θεματολόγιο της ΕΕ για τα δικαιώματα του παιδιού http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com_2011_60_en.pdf
([2]) Για παράδειγμα, βλ. τις απαντήσεις στις γραπτές ερωτήσεις P-7853/13, E-9306/12, E-8601/12, E-5052/11, E-3518/11, E-4704/10.
([3]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0196:FIN:EL:PDF

Τα παιδιά ως θύματα εκφοβισμού στο σχολείο είναι ένας από τους τομείς προτεραιότητας της πρόσκλησης υποβολής προτάσεων για την επιχορήγηση δράσεων στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος ΔΑΦΝΗ ΙΙΙ, η προθεσμία της οποίας λήγει στις 30 Οκτωβρίου 2013 ([4]). Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με προγράμματα και πρωτοβουλίες που αποσκοπούν στην καταπολέμηση του εκφοβισμού και του κυβερνοεκφοβισμού, καθώς και την περαιτέρω ευαισθητοποίηση όσον αφορά τα φαινόμενα αυτά, η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει τον κύριο βουλευτή στην απάντηση στις γραπτές ερωτήσεις P-007853/13, E-9306/12, και E-008601/2012.

([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just_2013_dap_ag_en.htm

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010389/13
alla Commissione
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE), Roberta Angelilli (PPE), Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D), Alexander Alvaro (ALDE) e Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)
(16 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Iniziative concrete per istituire una giornata europea contro il bullismo e la violenza nelle scuole

Il 4 febbraio 2013, durante la plenaria del Parlamento europeo a Strasburgo, è stata annunciata l'approvazione della dichiarazione scritta sull'istituzione di una giornata europea contro il bullismo e la violenza nelle scuole. Tuttavia la Commissione non ha comunicato, a tutt'oggi, alcun programma concreto per la sua attuazione.

Per giunta, i casi di bullismo sembrano essere in netto aumento, sia in rete che nella vita reale. Soltanto nell'agosto 2013, almeno tre minori nel Regno Unito e in Italia sono arrivati a suicidarsi a causa del bullismo e del bullismo online.

I minori sono giustamente considerati il gruppo più vulnerabile della società. Un giornata europea di questo tipo potrebbe contribuire a sensibilizzare e a dare un segnale forte, soprattutto in vista delle imminenti elezioni europee. È opportuno osservare inoltre che la giornata internazionale della non violenza — cui si fa riferimento nella risposta all'interrogazione scritta E-008601/2012 — è un'iniziativa delle Nazioni Unite intesa a promuovere la non violenza. Il bullismo, tuttavia, è una forma specifica di violenza che non sempre si manifesta sul piano fisico e che comporta una lunga serie di implicazioni, sia per il persecutore che per la vittima. Il fenomeno rappresenta inoltre una questione sociale molto delicata, sempre più diffusa e di importanza crescente.

Alla luce di quanto sin qui esposto, si chiede di rispondere alle seguenti domande:

1. concorda la Commissione sul fatto che l'istituzione di una giornata europea contro il bullismo e la violenza nelle scuole potrebbe promuovere e quindi rafforzare la lotta contro il bullismo? Come intende rispondere alla richiesta del Parlamento a seguito dell'approvazione della dichiarazione scritta sopra citata, specialmente in vista delle elezioni europee?

2. Dato che questo fenomeno sta assumendo proporzioni dilaganti, intende la Commissione programmare iniziative o programmi a fini di sensibilizzazione e per promuovere la prevenzione del bullismo, soprattutto alla luce dei problemi di finanziamento cui deve far fronte il programma per l'uso sicuro di Internet nel quadro del meccanismo per collegare l'Europa?

Risposta di Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(22 novembre 2013)

La Commissione ha più volte espresso preoccupazione per quanto riguarda la violenza nei confronti dei minori, anche nelle scuole ([1]). Ha poi affrontato la questione del bullismo e del cyberbullismo in diverse risposte alle interrogazioni scritte del Parlamento europeo ([2]).

Bullismo e cyberbullismo possono avere un impatto deleterio sui minori e la Commissione accoglie con favore le iniziative che rafforzano la lotta contro tali fenomeni.

Il 17 e 18 dicembre 2013 la Commissione organizzerà un'edizione speciale dell'ottavo Forum europeo per i diritti dei minori dedicato al ruolo dei sistemi per la protezione dei minori in relazione al bullismo e al cyberbullismo. L'obiettivo è stimolare un dibattito sulle possibili misure preventive e sulle risposte al bullismo e al cyberbullismo e rafforzare la cooperazione e il sostegno tra Stati membri, organizzazioni internazionali, società civile e professionisti che lavorano con e per i bambini in tutta l'UE.

Proteggere i bambini dall'esposizione ai contenuti dannosi presenti in rete e metterli in condizione di affrontare rischi quali il cyberbullismo fa parte della strategia europea per un'internet migliore per i ragazzi ([3]). I centri Safer Internet hanno consentito di accrescere la consapevolezza dei minori, dei genitori e degli insegnanti circa i rischi che si celano nella rete, tra cui il cyberbullismo.

([1]) Si veda, ad esempio, il programma UE per i diritti dei minori; http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0060:FIN:IT:PDF
([2]) Vedi le risposte alle interrogazioni scritte P-7853/13, E-9306/12, E-8601/12, E-5052/11, E-3518/11 e E-4704/10
([3]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0196:FIN:IT:PDF

I minori vittime di bullismo a scuola sono una delle tematiche prioritarie dell'invito per le sovvenzioni d'azione Daphne III, la cui scadenza è fissata per il 30 ottobre 2013 ([4]). Per altre informazioni sui programmi e sulle iniziative volte a sostenere la lotta contro il bullismo e il cyberbullismo e ad aumentare la consapevolezza di tali fenomeni, la Commissione rinvia gli onorevoli deputati alle risposte alle interrogazioni scritte P-7853/13, E-9306/12 e E-8601/2012.

([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just_2013_dap_ag_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010389/13
to the Commission
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE), Roberta Angelilli (PPE), Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D), Alexander Alvaro (ALDE) and Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: Concrete action to establish a European Day against Bullying and School Violence

On 4 February 2013 an announcement was made during Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg that the Written Declaration on establishing a European Day against Bullying and School Violence had been adopted. However, the Commission has so far announced no concrete plans for its implementation.

Moreover, incidents of both 'online' and 'offline' bullying seem to be rising sharply. In August 2013 alone at least three young children in the United Kingdom and Italy were driven to suicide because of bullying and cyber-bullying.

Children are rightly considered to be the most vulnerable group in society. A European Day of this kind could help raise awareness and send out a strong message, especially ahead of the upcoming European elections. It should also be noted that the International Day of Non-Violence — as referred to in the answer to Written Question E-008601/2012 — is a United Nations initiative to promote non-violence. However, bullying is a specific form of violence which is not always physical and which has a wide variety of implications for both the perpetrator and the victim. It is also a very sensitive social issue, increasingly widespread and of growing importance.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission agree that the fight against bullying could be promoted and thus strengthened by establishing a European Day against Bullying and School Violence? How does it plan to respond to Parliament's request following the adoption of the aforementioned Written Declaration, especially ahead of the European elections?

2. Given that bullying tends to become a scourge, does the Commission plan to promote any actions or programmes to raise awareness and promote the prevention of bullying, especially in the light of the funding problems for the Safer Internet Programme under the Connecting Europe Facility?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(22 November 2013)

The Commission has repeatedly expressed concerns about violence against children, including in school settings ([1]). It has also addressed the issue of bullying and cyber bullying in several answers to the European Parliament Written Questions ([2]).

Bullying and cyber bullying can have a severe negative impact on children and the Commission welcomes actions that strengthen the fight against these phenomena.

On 17 and 18 December 2013, the Commission will organise a dedicated session at the 8th European forum on the rights of the child with a focus on the role of child protection systems in protecting children from bullying and cyber bullying. The aim of this session is to stimulate a debate on possible preventative measures and responses to bullying and cyber bullying and strengthen cooperation and support among Member States, international organisations, civil society, and professionals working with and for children across the EU.

Protecting children from exposure to harmful content online and empowering them to deal with risks such as cyber-bullying is part of the Commission's 2012 Strategy for a Better Internet for Children ([3]). Safer Internet Centres have been instrumental in raising awareness on online risks, including cyber-bullying, among children, parents and teachers.

Children as victims of bullying at school are one of the priority areas of the Daphne III call for action grants with the deadline of 30 October 2013 ([4]). For other information on programmes and initiatives to support the fight against bullying and cyber bullying, and raise awareness about these phenomena, the Commission would refer the Honourable Members to the replies it gave to the Written Question P-007853/13, E-9306/12, and E-008601/2012.

([1]) See, for example, The EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child; http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com_2011_60_en.pdf
([2]) For example, see replies to written questions P-7853/13, E-9306/12, E-8601/12, E-5052/11, E-3518/11, E-4704/10.
([3]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0196:FIN:EN:PDF
([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/just_2013_dap_ag_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010390/13
to the Commission
Emma McClarkin (ECR)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: European Schools

It has been brought to my attention that the European Schools are facing a degree of crisis. At the 3239th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Education, Youth, Culture and Sport) held in Brussels on 16 and 17 May 2013, it was stated that 'a number of Member States are of the view that there are serious underlying problems with the European School system's current model'.

I am particularly concerned that the European School system is set up by an intergovernmental treaty, and as such operates on its own and is unregulated. Consequently, there are problems with funding and the disproportionate number of teachers from certain Member States. More worryingly, it has been brought to my attention that there were a number of problems with the exam papers for the 2012 European Baccalaureate, which saw some students failing their exams due to having to answer questions that were not even in the subject syllabus.

Can I ask the Commission to confirm that these problems do indeed exist? Is the Commission ready to change the legal nature of the system so that it conforms to EU-wide educational rules? Can it address the problems encountered by students in recent years, especially in regard to the mistakes of the 2012 exam papers?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(12 November 2013)

The European Schools System (ESS) is governed jointly by the governments of the EU Member States (MS) in the Board of Governors (BoG). The system is therefore subject to international law and consequently, cannot be considered as unregulated. It is also subject to its own corpus juris (the Convention and the decisions of the BoG), as well as its own judicial review system. The current system allows for a large participation of the MS in the governance of the system, as well as for a continuous exchange of teachers and practices between the MS Educational Systems and the ES System.

The Commission cannot on its own 'change the legal nature of the system' as the Honourable Member suggests since it is the competence of the BoG and ultimately, of the Member States.

The issue of cost-sharing was discussed at the extraordinary meeting of the BoG on 23 September 2013 and a structural solution was accepted by a majority of MS. If no agreement is reached by then, the proposal will be discussed at the margin of a ministerial meeting at the Education Council on 25 November 2013. The Commission insists that a sustainable solution to the issue is agreed upon as soon as possible.

Concerning European Baccalaureate 2012 exams, the Commission regrets the problems encountered at the mathematics and chemistry exams. The Commission requested a detailed report from the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools which was prepared by independent external experts ([1]). A number of recommendations were made that will be followed-up closely in order to avoid similar problems in the future.

([1]) Dr Cathy Smith from the Institute of Education at the University of London, and the Chairman of the European Baccalaureate exams in 2012, Dr Norbert Pachler.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010391/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(16 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Decessi per ipertermia di bambini dimenticati in auto e necessità di rivedere la normativa UE di settore al fine di scongiurare tali episodi

A partire dagli anni '90, le statistiche evidenziano il significativo aumento degli episodi di decesso per ipertermia di bambini in tenera età dimenticati dai genitori nella propria autovettura parcheggiata al sole ([1]). Il terribile fenomeno è legato all'introduzione nelle automobili dell'airbag anche per il posto del passeggero a lato del guidatore, che ha portato gli esperti di sicurezza stradale a suggerire di sistemare il seggiolino sul sedile posteriore (nel caso in cui si tratti di bambini di pochi mesi, addirittura con il volto rivolto verso il lunotto posteriore). Tale collocazione, sicuramente funzionale alla riduzione dei pericoli di contraccolpo in caso di incidente stradale, comporta al contempo la fuoriuscita del bambino dal campo visivo del genitore al volante, aumentando così il rischio che costui dimentichi di averlo con sé, complice lo stress e la stanchezza dovuti alle incombenze famigliari e lavorative.

La temperatura all'interno di un'autovettura parcheggiata al sole — per effetto dei vetri trasparenti e delle parti soggette a rapido surriscaldamento (cruscotto, sedili, volante) — può raggiungere i 50 °C anche in presenza di una temperatura esterna di appena 25 °C. La temperatura di un bambino, inoltre, aumenta più velocemente rispetto a quella di un adulto, a causa della minore superficie corporea e della minore quantità di riserve d'acqua. In simili condizioni, il decesso del bambino per ipertermia avviene nell'arco di qualche ora.

L'ultimo doloroso episodio verificatosi nel giugno 2013 a Piacenza ha riacceso in Italia il dibattito sui possibili rimedi da adottare al fine di scongiurare simili tragedie familiari. Si moltiplicano, infatti, le proposte volte all'introduzione a livello legislativo dell'obbligo di adozione di congegni elettronici che, mediante un segnale acustico o altri accorgimenti, ricordino al conducente la presenza del bambino nell'abitacolo, rendendo pressoché impossibile il verificarsi di tali episodi. Si segnala, infine, che in proposito è stata lanciata una petizione online dalla Dottoressa Maria Ghirardelli, medico di Brescia, che ha già raccolto oltre 30.000 firme.

Tutto ciò premesso, può la Commissione riferire se intende prendere in considerazione la problematica appena esposta e, in caso affermativo, chiarire in quale modo?

Risposta di Antonio Tajani a nome della Commissione
(12 novembre 2013)

La Commissione è a conoscenza dei drammi risultanti dal fatto che certi genitori o certe persone che hanno la custodia di bambini li dimenticano nell'automobile, con conseguente ipertermia che porta alla loro tragica morte.

La Commissione inizierà fra breve il riesame della legislazione sulla sicurezza, il «Regolamento sulla sicurezza generale» (CE) n. 661/2009 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, sui requisiti dell'omologazione per la sicurezza generale dei veicoli a motore, dei loro rimorchi e sistemi, component ed entità tecniche ad essi destinati ([2]). In particolare, essa ottempererà agli obblighi che le incombono in forza dell'articolo 17 per quanto concerne il monitoraggio degli sviluppi tecnici in relazione alle nuove caratteristiche e tecnologie atte a garantire una maggiore sicurezza.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, l'introduzione di dispositivi elettronici che ricordino ai conducenti la presenza di un bambino nell'automobile può essere contemplata alla stregua di una nuova tecnologia di sicurezza al fine di determinare se sia tecnicamente fattibile, affidabile ed efficace sul piano dei costi. Alla luce di questo riesame verrà presentata al Parlamento europeo una relazione con le pertinenti risultanze.

([1]) Cfr. Articolo del quotidiano «Il Fatto Quotidiano» del 4.6.2013, che riassume i casi verificatisi in Italia negli ultimi anni: http://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2013/06/04/piacenza-bimbo-trovato-morto-in-auto-padre-lo-ha-dimenticato/616080/.
([2]) GU L 200 del 31.07.2009, pag. 1.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010391/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: Hyperthermia deaths of children left inside cars and need for a review of sectoral EU legislation in order to prevent such incidents

Since the 1990s, statistics have shown a significant increase in the number of young children who have died of hyperthermia after their parents have forgotten about them and left them inside their cars parked in the sun ([1]). This terrible phenomenon is linked to the introduction of airbags in cars, including for the passenger seat next to the driver, which has led road safety experts to suggest that car seats should be placed on the back seat (and that babies of a few months old should even be facing the rear window). This position, which undoubtedly helps to reduce the risks of being thrown about in the event of a road accident, at the same time means that the child is outside the parent's field of vision when he or she is driving, thereby increasing the risk that the parent — who may be stressed or tired due to family and work responsibilities — forgets that the child is there.

Because of their transparent glass windows and parts that overheat quickly, such as dashboards, seats and steering wheels, cars parked in the sun can reach temperatures of 50°C, even when the outside temperature is only 25 C. Moreover, a child's temperature increases faster than an adult's, because of its smaller body surface area and lower water reserves. In those circumstances, a child will die of hyperthermia in the space of a few hours.

The latest distressing incident, which occurred in June 2013 in Piacenza, has revived the debate in Italy on possible solutions for preventing such family tragedies. There are increasing calls for the introduction of a legal requirement to use electronic devices that remind drivers that a child is in the car by means of an audible signal or other method, making it virtually impossible for such incidents to occur. Lastly, it should be pointed out that an online petition has been launched on this issue by Dr Maria Ghirardelli, a doctor based in Brescia, and has already gathered 30 000 signatures.

Will the Commission take the above problem into account, and if so, how will it solve it?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(12 November 2013)

The Commission is aware of the problem of some parents or caregivers forgetting children in car seats leading to hyperthermia and the tragic deaths of those children.

The Commission will soon start the review of safety legislation, the 'General Safety Regulation' (EC) 661/2009 of the European Parliament and Council concerning type-approval requirements for the general safety of motor vehicles, their trailers and systems, components and separate technical units intended therefore ([2]). In particular, it will follow the obligations laid down in Article 17, with respect to the monitoring of technical developments in the field of new and enhanced safety features and technologies.

In this light, the introduction of electronic devices that remind drivers that a child is in the car may also be investigated from a new safety technology point of view, to identify if this is technically feasible, reliable and indeed cost-effective. As part of this review exercise, a report including the relevant findings will be presented to the European Parliament.

([1]) See article in *Il Fatto Quotidiano* newspaper (4 June 2013 issue), which summarises the incidents that have occurred in Italy in recent years: http://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2013/06/04/piacenza-bimbo-trovato-morto-in-auto-padre-lo-ha-dimenticato/616080/
([2]) OJ L 200, 31.7.2009, p. 1.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010392/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(16 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Fenomeni di contaminazione da tetracloroetilene (PCE) in falde acquifere della provincia di Verona

Il 30 luglio 2013 il Servizio igiene, alimenti e nutrizione dell'ULSS (Unità locale socio-sanitaria) n. 22 di Bussolengo (VR), in occasione di un controllo periodico di routine sulla qualità dell'acqua della rete acquedottistica eseguito attingendo a due rubinetti nelle frazioni di Ardizzano e San Vito nel comune di Negrar (VR) tramite l'ARPAV (Agenzia regionale per la Prevenzione e Protezione Ambientale del Veneto), ha rilevato concentrazioni di tetracloroetilene (PCE) pari rispettivamente a 11,1 µg/l e 11,9 µg/l, quindi superiori al limite di legge fissato a 10 µg/l ([1]). La scoperta della contaminazione della falda acquifera, alla quale attinge la locale rete idrica pubblica che serve ben 18 000 utenze, ha portato all'immediata reazione del sindaco del comune di Negrar che, attraverso l'emanazione di un'ordinanza, ha vietato ai cittadini di bere l'acqua o di utilizzare la stessa per preparazioni alimentari che ne prevedessero un'alta concentrazione ([2]). Il provvedimento è stato revocato appena due giorni dopo in seguito a nuove analisi che rilevavano la riduzione della presenza dell'inquinante nella falda acquifera.

Il tetracloroetilene è un solvente chimico altamente volatile impiegato a livello industriale per sgrassare i metalli nonché nelle lavanderie a secco, nell'industria chimica e in quella farmaceutica.

Nonostante l'allarme rientrato, occorre segnalare che non si tratta di un caso isolato nella zona: nei primi mesi del 2013 era già stata riscontrata una contaminazione da tetracloroetilene (PCE) in una falda acquifera superficiale nella non lontana area della Bassa Valpantena, sempre in provincia di Verona, che ha coinvolto i comuni di Poiano, Quinto e Santa Maria in Stelle; in quell'occasione l'inquinamento, che ha interessato i pozzi privati utilizzati non per emungere acqua destinata al consumo umano ma per fini irrigui, ha raggiunto livelli allarmanti. In particolare in un pozzo è stata rilevata una presenza di tetracloroetilene (PCE) in concentrazione pari a 600 µg/l, ovvero 60 volte il limite di legge ([3]).

Tutto ciò premesso l'interrogante chiede alla Commissione: è al corrente dei preoccupanti fenomeni di contaminazione da tetracloroetilene (PCE) sopradescritti? Può far sapere se sono stati rilevati dati analoghi anche in altre aree dell'UE? Non ritiene opportuno contattare le autorità locali al fine di fare chiarezza sulla fonte di tali contaminazioni? In relazione alla prima delle due vicende, stante la prossimità al limite di legge della concentrazione dell'inquinante, non ritiene che le autorità locali debbano analizzare l'acqua con frequenza maggiore rispetto a quella attuale?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(7 novembre 2013)

La Commissione non era al corrente dei casi specifici, riferiti dall'onorevole deputato, di contaminazione da tetracloroetilene (PCE) della falda acquifera nella provincia di Verona. Alla Commissione è tuttavia noto che il PCE è responsabile delle cattive condizioni in cui versano 62 corpi idrici sotterranei di sei Stati membri, tra cui l'Italia.

A norma della direttiva quadro sulle acque ([4]), gli Stati membri devono individuare la fonte di contaminazione e indicare nei loro piani di gestione dei bacini idrografici le misure per migliorare lo stato delle acque.

La frequenza minima con cui vanno effettuati i controlli dell'acqua per determinare il livello delle sostanze inquinanti è stabilita nella direttiva quadro sulle acque e nella direttiva sulle acque destinate al consumo umano ([5]). Entrambe le direttive prevedono che gli Stati membri abbiano l'obbligo di stabilire adeguati programmi di controllo, almeno conformi ai requisiti minimi indicati negli allegati. Sta agli Stati membri valutare se sono necessari controlli più frequenti e metterli in atto, tenendo conto degli obiettivi delle direttive.

A norma della direttiva sulle acque destinate al consumo umano, entro la fine del 2014 gli Stati membri dovranno pubblicare le relazioni sulla qualità delle acque potabili (con i dati del periodo 2011-2013) e trasmetterle alla Commissione, che le esaminerà e pubblicherà a sua volta una relazione di sintesi (entro la fine del 2015). In base all'esame dei dati, la Commissione deciderà se occorre intervenire.

([1]) Previsto dall'allegato I, parte B, del d.lgs. 2 febbraio 2001, n. 31 «Attuazione della direttiva 98/83/CE relativa alla qualità delle acque destinate al consumo umano».
([2]) Ordinanza n. 19 del 2013.
([3]) Verbale della Conferenza di servizi svoltasi in proposito in data 10.5.2013 con la partecipazione anche della Regione Veneto e dell'ARPAV (http://goo.gl/uBQx1k).
([4]) Direttiva 2000/60/CE, GU L 327 del 22.12.2000.
([5]) Direttiva 98/83/CE, GU L 330 del 5.12.1998.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010392/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination in aquifers in the province of Verona

On 30 July 2013 the Hygiene of Food and Nutrition Service of the ULSS 22 local health unit of Bussolengo (Verona) carried out a routine inspection of the water quality of the water supply network, drawing from two taps in the hamlets of Ardizzano and San Vito in the municipality of Negrar (Verona). Through ARPAV (Environmental Protection Agency for the Veneto Region), it discovered that the water contained tetrachloroethylene (PCE) concentrations of 11.1 µg/l and 11.9 µg/l respectively, which therefore exceeded the legal limit of 10 µg/l ([1]). Following the discovery that the aquifer, from which the local public water network serving some 18 000 users draws its supply, was contaminated, the mayor of the municipality of Negrar immediately responded by issuing an order prohibiting the public from drinking the water or from using it for food preparations with a high water content ([2]). The order was revoked only two days later after further tests were carried out showing a reduction in the amount of the pollutant present in the aquifer.

Tetrachloroethylene is a highly volatile chemical solvent used in industry for metal degreasing, as well as in dry cleaning and in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

Although there is no longer cause for alarm, it should be pointed out that this is not an isolated case in the area: in the first few months of 2013, tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination had already been detected in a surface aquifer in the nearby area of Bassa Valpantena, also in the province of Verona, which involved the municipalities of Poiano, Quinto and Santa Maria in Stelle. On that occasion the pollution, which affected private wells used for irrigation purposes rather than for drawing water intended for human consumption, reached alarming levels. In particular, one well was found to contain 600 µg/l of tetrachloroethylene (PCE), which is 60 times the legal limit ([3]).

Is the Commission aware of the aforementioned worrying cases of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination? Have similar data been recorded in other parts of the EU, too? Does the Commission not believe it should contact the local authorities in order to clarify the source of this contamination? With regard to the first of the two cases, given that the concentration of the pollutant was close to the legal limit, does the Commission not believe that the local authorities should test the water more frequently than they do at present?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(7 November 2013)

The Commission was not aware of the specific cases of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination in aquifers in the province of Verona referred to by the Honourable Member. The Commission is, however, aware of the fact that PCE contributes to poor status of 62 groundwater bodies in six Member States, including Italy.

According to the Water Framework Directive ([4]) (WFD) the Member States are required to identify the sources of water contamination and include measures to improve water status in their river basin management plans (RBMPs).

The minimum frequencies of monitoring the different pollutants in water are defined in the WFD and Drinking Water Directive ([5]). The directives set out the obligation for the Member States to establish appropriate monitoring programmes, meeting at least the minimum requirements set in the annexes. In case more frequent controls are needed, then should be considered and established by the Member States, taking into consideration the need to meet the objectives of the directives.

In accordance with the Drinking Water Directive, Member States will have to publish reports on drinking water quality by the end of 2014 (covering data from 2011-2013). These reports also have to be submitted to the Commission, which will examine them and publish a synthesis report (by the end of 2015). Based on its assessment of the data, the Commission will decide on the need for further action.

([1]) As laid down by Annex I, part B, to Legislative Decree No 31 of 2 February 2001 implementing Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.
([2]) Order No 19 of 2013.
([3]) Minutes of the Conference of services held on this issue on 10 May 2013, in which the Veneto Region and ARPAV also participated (http://goo.gl/uBQx1k).
([4]) Directive 2000/60/EC, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000.
([5]) Directive 98/83/EC, OJ L 330, 5.12.1998.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010393/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(16 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Scandalo del latte tossico in Friuli-Venezia Giulia e progressi nello studio e nel monitoraggio delle aflatossine nei prodotti alimentari

A fine giugno 2013 è scoppiato un grosso scandalo alimentare in Friuli-Venezia Giulia: un'operazione dei NAS (Nuclei antisofisticazioni e sanità) dei Carabinieri di Udine ha condotto all'arresto del presidente del locale consorzio di produttori di latte denominato Cospalat FVG ([1]), nell'ambito di un'indagine (che coinvolge complessivamente 26 persone, 17 delle quali allevatori consorziati) sull'esistenza di un'associazione per delinquere finalizzata alla frode in commercio, all'adulterazione di sostanze alimentari e al commercio di sostanze alimentari pericolose per la salute.

Secondo quanto ricostruito dagli inquirenti, l'arrestato, con la complicità di due dipendenti e di due socie compiacenti di un laboratorio di analisi (tutti sottoposti alla misura cautelare degli arresti domiciliari), avrebbe commercializzato il latte prodotto dal consorzio, nonostante lo stesso fosse contaminato dall'aflatossina M1 (presente al 30 %), pilotando le analisi sulla qualità del latte conferito dai soci, distruggendo quelle non conformi e diluendo il latte per sfuggire ai controlli ([2]). Il latte prodotto veniva poi distribuito in varie regioni italiane tra le quali Veneto, Toscana, Umbria, Campania e Puglia.

L'aflatossina M1 è il metabolita del latte dell'aflatossina B1, micotossina particolarmente pericolosa per la salute: le conseguenze di un'eventuale intossicazione si manifestano nell'uomo con disturbi gastrointestinali e neurovegetativi; inoltre essa può causare danni alla crescita dei bambini. Secondo Giorgio Apostoli, responsabile zootecnia di Coldiretti ([3]), la stagione particolarmente siccitosa dell'anno 2012 avrebbe favorito la proliferazione di funghi (che producono sostanze tossiche quali le aflatossine) nel mais poi utilizzato per la produzione dei mangimi somministrati alle vacche da latte. Sempre secondo l'esperto, tale mais avrebbe dovuto invece essere scartato dal momento che le sostanze assunte dalle vacche si trasmettono immediatamente al latte.

Tutto ciò premesso, l'interrogante pone alla Commissione i quesiti di seguito elencati.

1. È a conoscenza dell'indagine italiana relativa allo scandalo alimentare sopradescritto?

2. Può chiarire i progressi compiuti dall'Autorità europea per la sicurezza alimentare (EFSA — European Food Safety Authority) in merito al monitoraggio della presenza delle aflatossine negli alimenti commercializzati nell'Unione europea e allo studio sull'esposizione umana a tali tossine?

3. Può far sapere se si sono verificate vicende analoghe a quella sopradescritta in altri Stati membri e quali iniziative intende intraprendere per prevenire che esse si verifichino?

Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione
(29 ottobre 2013)

1. La Commissione non è a conoscenza dell'incidente derivante dalla presenza di aflatossina M1 nel latte nel Friuli-Venezia Giulia né delle indagini legate a questo caso di contaminazione. Sulla base delle informazioni fornite dall'onorevole deputato, la Commissione ha chiesto alle autorità italiane di trasmetterle informazioni su questo caso di contaminazione e sulle misure adottate per proteggere la sanità pubblica.

2. L'Autorità europea per la sicurezza alimentare (EFSA) raccoglie continuativamente dati sulla presenza di contaminanti, tra cui le aflatossine, nei mangimi e negli alimenti all'interno dell'UE. Nel merito vengono pubblicate regolarmente relazioni. La più recente relazione tecnica del 2013 sulla presenza di aflatossine negli alimenti «Aflatossine (somma di B1, B2, G1 e G2) nei cereali e nei prodotti alimentari derivanti dai cereali ([4])» è stata pubblicata il 25 marzo 2013. La più recente relazione tecnica dell'EFSA sull'esposizione umana alle aflatossine «Effetti sull'esposizione alimentare dell'aumento dei livelli di aflatossine complessive da 4 μg/kg a 10 μg/kg nei fichi secchi ([5])» è stata pubblicata il 9 luglio 2012.

([1]) Consorzio nato nel 1998 tra oltre 200 produttori di latte del Friuli-Venezia Giulia che protestavano contro le multe comunitarie comminate all'Italia per violazioni di quanto imposto con le «quote latte».
([2]) Cfr. articolo del quotidiano «Il Fatto Quotidiano» del 20.6.2013: http://goo.gl/gW3GaW.
([3]) Confederazione nazionale coltivatori diretti, la maggiore associazione di rappresentanza e assistenza dell'agricoltura italiana; cfr. articolo del quotidiano «La Repubblica» del 21.6.2013: http://goo.gl/QzJilQ.
([4]) Autorità europea per la sicurezza alimentare; Aflatoxins (sum of B1, B2, G1, G2) in cereals and cereal-derived food products. Supporting Publications 2013:EN-406. [11 pp.]. Disponibile on line: www.efsa.europa.eu/publications.
([5]) Autorità europea per la sicurezza alimentare; Effect on dietary exposure of an increase of the levels for aflatoxin total from 4 μg/kg to 10 μg/kg for dried figs. Supporting Publications 2012:EN-311. [6 pp.]. Disponibile on line: www.efsa.europa.eu/publications.

3. La Commissione non è a conoscenza di altri casi analoghi di contaminazione in altri Stati membri. L'efficace applicazione della legislazione unionale esistente in materia di sicurezza alimentare previene il verificarsi di simili casi di contaminazione.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010393/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)

(16 September 2013)

Subject: Toxic milk scandal in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and progress in the study and monitoring of aflatoxins in foodstuffs

At the end of June 2013 a major food scandal broke in Friuli-Venezia Giulia: an operation by the Udine Carabinieri for Public Health (NAS) led to the arrest of the head of the local milk producers' consortium, Cospalat FVG ([1]). The operation was part of an investigation (involving 26 people in total, including 17 farmers belonging to the consortium) into the existence of a criminal conspiracy to commit commercial fraud, adulterate foodstuffs and market foodstuffs that are dangerous to health.

According to the investigators' findings, the man arrested conspired with his accomplices — two employees and two partners of a test laboratory, all of whom have been placed under house arrest as a precautionary measure — to market milk produced by the consortium, even though it was contaminated by aflatoxin M1 (the AFM1 content being 30%), by falsifying tests carried out on the quality of the milk supplied by the consortium members, by destroying non-compliant tests and by diluting milk in order to avoid detection ([2]). The milk produced was then distributed in various Italian regions, including Veneto, Tuscany, Umbria, Campania and Apulia.

Aflatoxin M1 is the metabolite in milk of aflatoxin B1, a mycotoxin that is particularly hazardous to health: in humans intoxication results in gastrointestinal and neurovegetative disorders; it can also impair growth in children. According to Giorgio Apostoli, head of zootechnics at Coldiretti ([3]), the particularly dry season of 2012 encouraged the proliferation of fungi (which produce toxic substances such as aflatoxins) in maize that was subsequently used to produce feed for dairy cows. The expert also maintains that the maize should have been discarded, since substances ingested by cows reach their milk straight away.

1. Is the Commission aware of the Italian investigation into the aforementioned food scandal?

2. What progress has the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA — European Food Safety Authority) made in monitoring the presence of aflatoxins in foodstuffs sold in the European Union and in studying human exposure to such toxins?

3. Have there been any incidents similar to the one described above in other Member States, and what steps will the Commission take to prevent them from occurring?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission

(29 October 2013)

1. The Commission is not aware of the contamination incident of aflatoxin M1 in milk in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and the investigations related to this contamination incident. Following the information provided by the Honourable Member, the Commission has asked the Italian authorities to provide information on the contamination incident and on the measures taken to protect public health.

2. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is continuously collecting occurrence data on contaminants, including aflatoxins, in feed and food in the EU. Reports on these data are regularly published. The most recent EFSA technical report on the presence of aflatoxins in food 2013 'Aflatoxins (sum of B1, B2, G1 and G2) in cereals and cereal-derived food products ([4])' was published on 25 March 2013. The most recent EFSA technical report on the human exposure to aflatoxins 'Effect on dietary exposure of an increase of the levels for aflatoxin total from 4 μg/kg to 10 μg/kg for dried figs ([5])' was published on 9 July 2012.

([1]) Consortium set up in 1998 by more than 200 milk producers from Friuli-Venezia Giulia who were protesting against the Community fines imposed on Italy for infringements of the milk quota rules.

([2]) See article in *Il Fatto Quotidiano newspaper* (20 June 2013 issue): http://goo.gl/gW3GaW

([3]) National Confederation of Farmers, the main association that represents and supports Italian agriculture; see article in *La Repubblica* newspaper (21 June 2013 issue): http://goo.gl/QzJilQ

([4]) European Food Safety Authority; Aflatoxins (sum of B1, B2, G1, G2) in cereals and cereal-derived food products. Supporting Publications 2013:EN-406. [11 pp.]. Available online: www.efsa.europa.eu/publications.

([5]) European Food Safety Authority; Effect on dietary exposure of an increase of the levels for aflatoxin total.
from 4 μg/kg to 10 μg/kg for dried figs. Supporting Publications 2012:EN-311. [6 pp.]. Available online:
www.efsa.europa.eu/publications

3. The Commission is not aware of any other similar contamination events in other Member States. An effective enforcement of the existing EU food safety legislation prevents the occurrence of such food contamination incidents.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-010394/13
alla Commissione
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(16 settembre 2013)

Oggetto: Centri massaggi gestiti da cinesi: rischio per la salute dei cittadini e tutela della categoria degli estetisti

Ad Adria, in seguito ad un controllo effettuato dal Nucleo antisofisticazione dei Carabinieri, è stato chiuso un centro massaggi gestito da cinesi poiché è emerso che le attività si protraevano oltre l'orario di chiusura dichiarato e venivano portate avanti in assenza di operatori abilitati all'attività di estetista.

Centri massaggi di questo tipo sono sempre più diffusi in Veneto ed in Italia, l'attenzione delle forze dell'ordine su tale settore si mantiene alta e numerose risultano le chiusure per irregolarità nello svolgimento dell'attività professionale.

Può la Commissione riferire:

1. come intende agire per tutelare la categoria degli estetisti, che ricevono l'abilitazione a praticare tale professione solo dopo un preciso iter formativo presso istituti professionali riconosciuti;

2. come intende tutelare la salute dei cittadini che si servono di questi esercizi e che viene messa a rischio dalla mancanza di professionalità degli operatori presenti;

3. se anche in altri Stati membri si riscontrano problematiche simili a quelle italiana?

Risposta di Michel Barnier a nome della Commissione
(15 novembre 2013)

Sulla base delle informazioni a sua disposizione ([1]), alla Commissione risulta che la professione di estetista sia regolamentata in tutte le regioni italiane. La questione riguarda pertanto una professione regolamentata ai sensi della direttiva 2005/36/CE relativa al riconoscimento delle qualifiche professionali ([2]).

Ad eccezione di sette professioni ([3]), che beneficiano dei requisiti minimi di formazione armonizzati di cui alla direttiva 2005/36/CE, resta di competenza esclusiva dei singoli Stati membri ([4]) subordinare l'accesso ad altre attività professionali (come quelle degli estetisti) o l'esercizio delle stesse nel loro territorio al possesso di determinate qualifiche professionali, nonché definire il campo delle attività coperte da una professione o ad essa riservate. È tuttavia possibile, a determinate condizioni, che agli Stati membri venga richiesto di riconoscere l'esperienza professionale maturata in un altro Stato membro nel settore dei servizi offerti dagli istituti di bellezza come prova sufficiente di conoscenze ([5]).

Alle autorità nazionali, nella fattispecie a quelle italiane, spetta anche il compito di avviare le azioni disciplinari in caso di esercizio illecito di attività professionali nonché di applicare le misure di esecuzione e di controllo necessarie per tutelare la salute dei cittadini, garantendo che i servizi in questione vengano esclusivamente prestati da personale qualificato.

In tale contesto, la Commissione non è a conoscenza di altri Stati membri che si trovino ad affrontare problemi simili a quelli osservati in Italia.

Infine, la Commissione desidera informare l'onorevole deputato che il 2 ottobre 2013 ha pubblicato una comunicazione sulla valutazione delle regolamentazioni nazionali sull'accesso alle professioni ([6]), al fine di fare il punto della situazione negli Stati membri e facilitare la valutazione reciproca e la proporzionalità dei regolamenti che disciplinano le professioni regolamentate negli Stati membri.

([1]) Banca dati delle professioni regolamentate, disponibile al seguente indirizzo: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?action=homepage.
([2]) Direttiva 2005/36/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 7 settembre 2005, relativa al riconoscimento delle qualifiche professionali, GU L 255 del 30.9.2005.
([3]) Medici, infermieri responsabili dell'assistenza generale, dentisti, ostetriche, farmacisti, architetti e chirurghi veterinari.
([4]) Si osservi che la direttiva si applica anche all'Islanda, alla Norvegia e al Liechtenstein. Alla Svizzera si applicano regole specifiche.
([5]) A norma dell'articolo 19 della direttiva, l'attività in questione deve essere stata esercitata per tre anni consecutivi come lavoratore autonomo o dirigente d'azienda, oppure per due anni consecutivi come lavoratore autonomo o dirigente d'azienda se il beneficiario prova di aver in precedenza ricevuto, per l'attività in questione, una formazione sancita da un certificato riconosciuto dallo Stato membro o giudicata del tutto valida da un competente organismo professionale, ecc.
([6]) COM(2013)676 def.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-010394/13
to the Commission
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(16 September 2013)

Subject: Chinese-run massage centres: risk to citizens' health and protection of professional beauticians

In Adria a Chinese-run massage centre has been closed down following an inspection by the Carabinieri for Public Health (NAS), since it emerged that treatments were being carried out after the official closing time and in the absence of qualified beauticians.

These kinds of massage centres are becoming more common throughout the Veneto Region and Italy; law enforcement officers continue to monitor this sector closely, and many centres are closed down due to irregularities in the performance of the professional activity concerned.

1. What steps will the Commission take to protect professional beauticians, who have to attend specific training courses at recognised vocational institutions before they are qualified to practise their profession?

2. How will it protect the health of citizens who frequent these establishments, which is being put at risk by the lack of qualified beauticians present?

3. Are other Member States facing problems similar to those in Italy?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(15 November 2013)

Based information available to the Commission ([1]), the profession of beautician (Estetista) is regulated in all regions of Italy. Therefore, the issue concerns a regulated profession within a meaning of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications ([2]).

With the exception of seven professions ([3]) that benefit from the harmonised minimum training requirements set out in Directive 2005/36/EC, it remains within the sole competence of individual Member States ([4]) to make access to or the pursuit of other professional activities (such as those of qualified beauticians) in their territory subject to the possession of specific professional qualifications and to define the scope of activities covered by a profession or reserved to it. However, under certain conditions Member States may be required to recognise professional experience in services of beauty parlours carried out in another Member States as sufficient proof of knowledge ([5]).

It is also for national authorities, such as those in Italy, to initiate disciplinary actions for illegal professional activities and to apply any enforcement and monitoring measures necessary to protect the health of citizens by ensuring that only qualified staff is providing these services.

In that context, the Commission is not aware of other Member States facing problems similar to those in Italy.

Finally, the Commission would like to inform the Honourable Member that on 2 October 2013 it has published a communication on evaluating national regulations on access to professions ([6]) in order to take stock of the situation in Member States and to facilitate the mutual evaluation and the proportionality of regulations covering regulated professions in Member States.

([1]) Database of regulated professions, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?action=homepage
([2]) Directive 2005/36/EC of Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, OJ L 255, 30.9.2005.
([3]) Doctors, nurses responsible for general care, pharmacists, midwives, dentists, architects and veterinary surgeons.
([4]) It must be noted that the directive also applies to Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein; specific rules apply to Switzerland.
([5]) Under Article 19 of the directive, the activity in question must have been pursued for three consecutive years, either on a self-employed basis or as a manager of an undertaking; or for two consecutive years, either on a self-employed basis or as a manager of an undertaking, if the beneficiary can proof that he has received previous training for the activity in question, as attested by a certificate recognised by the Member State or judged by a competent professional body to be fully valid, etc.
([6]) COM(2013) 676.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010396/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Antígua e Barbuda

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Antígua e Barbuda?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010397/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Bahamas

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nas Bahamas?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010398/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Barbados

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nos Barbados?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010399/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Belize

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Belize?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010400/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Angola

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Angola?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010401/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Benim

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Benim?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010402/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Botswana

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Botswana?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010403/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Burkina Faso

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Burkina Faso?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010404/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Burundi

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Burundi?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010405/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Cabo Verde

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrada no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto, pois, à Comissão:

Considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Cabo Verde?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010413/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Domínica

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Domínica.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010414/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Camarões

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nos Camarões.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010415/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Chade

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Chade.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010416/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Comores

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nas Comores.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010417/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Costa do Marfim

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Costa do Marfim.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010418/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Jibuti

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Jibuti.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010419/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Eritreia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Eritreia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010420/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Etiópia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Etiópia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010421/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Estados Federados da Micronésia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nos Estados Federados da Micronésia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010422/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Fiji

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nas Fiji.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010423/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Granada

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Granada.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010424/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Guiana

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Guiana.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010425/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Haiti

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Haiti.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010426/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Ilhas Cook

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nas Ilhas Cook.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010427/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Guiné Equatorial

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Guiné Equatorial.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010428/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Gabão

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Gabão.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010429/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Gâmbia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Gâmbia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010430/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Gana

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Gana.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010431/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Guiné

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Guiné.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010432/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Guiné-Bissau

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Guiné-Bissau.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010433/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e República Dominicana

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na República Dominicana.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010434/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Samoa

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Samoa.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010435/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Santa Lúcia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Santa Lúcia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010436/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e São Vicente e Granadinas

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em São Vicente e Granadinas.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010437/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Ruanda

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Ruanda.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010438/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e São Tomé e Príncipe

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em São Tomé e Príncipe.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010439/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Senegal

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Senegal.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010440/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Serra Leoa

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Serra Leoa.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010441/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e República do Congo

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na República do Congo.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010442/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e São Cristóvão e Neves

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em São Cristóvão e Neves.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010443/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Suriname

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Suriname.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010444/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Trindade e Tobago

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Trindade e Tobago.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010445/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Timor-Leste

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Timor-Leste.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010446/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Tonga

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Tonga.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010447/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Seicheles

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nas Seicheles.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010448/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Somália

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Somália.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010449/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Suazilândia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Suazilândia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010450/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Sudão

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Sudão.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010451/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Tanzânia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Tanzânia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010452/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Togo

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Togo.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010453/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Uganda

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Uganda.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010454/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Zimbabué

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Zimbabué.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010455/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Zâmbia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Zâmbia?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010456/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Tuvalu

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Tuvalu.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010457/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Vanuatu

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Vanuatu.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010458/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Jamaica

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Jamaica.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010459/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Ilhas Salomão

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos nas Ilhas Salomão.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010460/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Lesoto

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Lesoto.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010461/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Libéria

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Libéria.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010462/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Madagáscar

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Madagáscar.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010463/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Maláui

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Maláui.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010464/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Mali

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Mali?

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010465/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Maurícia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Maurícia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010466/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Mauritânia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos na Mauritânia.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010467/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Moçambique

O acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos em Moçambique.

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-010468/13
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(16 de setembro de 2013)

Assunto: VP/HR — Acordo de Cotonu — UE e Quénia

O Acordo de Cotonu, assinado em 23 de junho de 2000 por um período de 20 anos, gere as relações de cooperação da União Europeia (UE) com vista ao desenvolvimento económico, social e cultural dos países de África, das Caraíbas e do Pacífico (ACP).

Centrado no objetivo de redução e, a prazo, de erradicação da pobreza, a cooperação deve igualmente contribuir para a paz e a segurança, bem como para a estabilidade política e democrática dos países ACP.

Pergunto à Comissão se considera que estes objetivos têm sido atingidos no Quénia.