(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-012264/13
an die Kommission
Angelika Niebler (PPE)
(28. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Innergemeinschaftlicher Versandhandel und verbrauchsteuerpflichtiger Waren

Bei der Beförderung verbrauchsteuerpflichtiger Waren (z.B. Branntwein) von einem EU-Mitgliedstaat in einen anderen wird zwischen der gewerblichen Beförderung einerseits und der Beförderung durch Privatpersonen im Reiseverkehr andererseits unterschieden.

Privatpersonen, die diese Waren für ihren Eigenbedarf befördern, unterliegen dem Ursprungslandprinzip und müssen daher im Bestimmungsland keine Verbrauchsteuer mehr zahlen. Dagegen gilt bei der gewerblichen Beförderung (einschließlich des innergemeinschaftlichen Versandhandels) das Bestimmungslandprinzip, wonach die Waren erst in dem Land des Verbrauchers mit den dort gültigen Steuersätzen versteuert werden — und zwar unabhängig davon, ob die Verbrauchsteuer im Abgangsland bereits entrichtet worden ist oder nicht.

Verbrauchsteuerpflichtige Waren dürfen dann an Privatpersonen in andere EU-Mitgliedstaaten versandt werden, wenn sich der Versandhändler vor der ersten Lieferung bei den zuständigen Zoll- bzw. Steuerbehörden des jeweiligen EU-Mitgliedstaates (also des Bestimmungslandes) registriert und für die Entrichtung der Verbrauchsteuer eine Sicherheit geleistet hat. Nach Übernahme der Ware durch den Empfänger muss der Versandhändler die entsprechende Verbrauchsteuer entrichten und kann die Rückerstattung der Verbrauchsteuer des Abgangslands beantragen.

Lieferungen verbrauchsteuerpflichtiger Waren in ein Drittland sind mit wesentlich geringerem Aufwand möglich.

1. Teilt die EU-Kommission die Auffassung, dass insbesondere für kleine Versandhändler der Versand verbrauchsteuerpflichtiger Waren in einen anderen EU-Mitgliedstaat nur mit einem hohen bürokratischen Aufwand möglich ist?

2. Hält es die EU-Kommission für sinnvoll, die Bestimmungen zur Besteuerung von verbrauchsteuerpflichtiger Waren dahin gehend zu ändern, dass in den Fällen, in denen der Versand dieser Waren unterhalb der Schwellenwerte für den eigenen Verbrauch an Privatpersonen erfolgt, die Besteuerung nach dem Ursprungslandprinzip erfolgt?

Antwort von Herrn Šemeta im Namen der Kommission
(11. Dezember 2013)

1. Der Kommission ist bekannt, dass die mangelnde Harmonisierung im Bereich der Fernverkäufe (Versandhandel) (Artikel 36 der Richtlinie 2008/118/EG des Rates) hohe Kosten verursachen und den freien Warenverkehr hemmen kann.

Die Kommission hat eine Projektgruppe ([1]) aus Vertretern der Kommission und der Mitgliedstaaten eingesetzt, um zu untersuchen, wie die gegenwärtigen Regelungen zur Einhaltung der Steuervorschriften, insbesondere derer auf der Grundlage von Artikel 36 der Richtlinie 2008/118/EG, verbessert werden können. Ein erster Bericht über nachahmenswerte Verfahren im Rahmen der geltenden Regelungen wird bis Juni 2014 vorgelegt.

Nach Artikel 45 Absatz 2 der Richtlinie 2008/118/EG legt die Kommission dem Europäischen Parlament und dem Rat bis 2015 einen Bericht über die Umsetzung der Richtlinie — einschließlich der Bestimmungen zu Fernverkäufen — vor. Ist die Kommission der Auffassung, dass die derzeitige Rechtslage geändert werden muss, werden die entsprechenden Änderungen in den Bericht einbezogen.

2. Das Ursprungslandprinzip, wonach die Verbrauchsteuer im Erwerbsmitgliedstaat erhoben wird, ist eine Ausnahme von der allgemeinen Regel, dass diese Steuer im Verbrauchsmitgliedstaat anfällt.

Da einigen Mitgliedstaaten durch die Ausdehnung dieses Prinzips auf Fernverkäufe bei den Verbrauchsteuern hohe Einnahmeausfälle entstünden, würde ein Vorschlag zur Änderung der Richtlinie 2008/118/EG in diesem Sinne nach Auffassung der Kommission zu einer unverhältnismäßig starken Wettbewerbsverzerrung im Binnenmarkt führen.

([1]) Siehe http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012264/13
to the Commission
Angelika Niebler (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Intra-Union mail order and excise goods

When excise goods (e.g. spirits) are transported from one EU Member State to another, a distinction is made between commercial transport on the one hand and transport by private individuals when travelling on the other.

Private individuals who transport these goods for their own use are subject to the country of origin principle and therefore do not have to pay more excise duty in the country of destination. For commercial transport (including intra-Union mail order), however, the country of destination principle applies, according to which the goods are not taxed until they reach the country of the consumer, according to the rates in force there — and irrespective of whether or not excise duty has already been collected in the country of departure.

Excise goods can then be sent to private individuals in other EU Member States if the mail order company has registered with the competent customs and excise authorities of the relevant EU Member State (i.e. the country of destination) and lodged a security for payment of the excise duty prior to the first consignment. After receipt of the goods by the recipient, the mail order company must pay the appropriate excise duty and can request a refund of the excise duty of the country of departure.

Delivery of excise goods to a third country is possible with considerably less effort.

1. Does the Commission agree that, for small mail order companies in particular, the shipment of excise goods to another EU Member State is only possible with a great deal of red tape?

2. Would it consider it appropriate to amend the provisions concerning taxation of excise goods to the effect that, in cases where these goods are shipped to private individuals in quantities below the threshold for own consumption, they should be taxed according to the country of origin principle?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(11 December 2013)

1. The Commission is aware that a lack of procedural harmonisation in the area of distance selling (Article 36 of Council Directive 2008/118/EC) can be costly and can represent a barrier to the free movement of goods.

The Commission has established a Project Group ([1]) consisting of the Commission and representatives of the Member States to investigate how current arrangements for fiscal compliance can be improved, particularly those based on Article 36 of Directive 2008/118/EC. An initial report on best practice under the current arrangements will be produced by June 2014.

Under Article 45(2) of Directive 2008/118/EC the Commission will submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council in 2015 on the implementation of the directive, including the provisions on distance selling. Where the Commission considers changes to the current legal situation to be necessary such changes will be included in the report.

2. The country of origin principle, charging excise duty in the Member State of purchase, is an exception to the general rule by which the excise duty is chargeable in the Member State of consumption.

Given the loss of excise revenue that some Member States would suffer if this principle were extended to distance selling the Commission is of the opinion that a proposal to change Directive 2008/118/EC in this way would risk distorting the Single Market in a disproportionate way.

([1]) see http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012672/13
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)
Fiorello Provera (EFD) e Charles Tannock (ECR)
(8 novembre 2013)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Ragazza yemenita bruciata viva

Il 22 ottobre alcune agenzie hanno riportato la notizia di una ragazza yemenita di 15 anni bruciata viva dal padre perché avrebbe incontrato il fidanzato prima delle nozze. La ragazza viveva nel villaggio di Chabaa, nella provincia di Taiz, sull'altopiano che occupa la zona meridionale del paese. Gli abitanti del villaggio hanno riferito che il padre l'aveva sorpresa al telefono con il fidanzato. In molte parti dello Yemen, le fedeltà e tradizioni tribali prevalgono sulle leggi emanate dal governo centrale di Sanaa. Le tradizioni tribali di alcune regioni dello Yemen vietano qualsiasi contatto tra uomo e donna prima del matrimonio, mentre la povertà e preoccupazioni legate alla salvaguardia dell'onore fanno spesso sì che i genitori cerchino di maritare le figlie ancora giovanissime. I delitti d'onore non sono rari e sono numerosi i casi di figlie, mogli e sorelle uccise dai parenti maschi per aver disonorato la famiglia.

1. Quali progetti specifici nello Yemen volti ad affrontare il problema dei delitti d'onore beneficiano di contributi UE?

2. Nello Yemen il tasso di alfabetizzazione delle donne adulte non supera il 29 %. Quali provvedimenti ha adottato o intende adottare l'UE per contribuire a migliorare il tasso di alfabetizzazione femminile nei paesi che presentano marcate disparità di genere?

3. Come valutano i funzionari UE a Sanaa la risposta del governo yemenita ai casi di delitti d'onore?

Risposta congiunta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(13 dicembre 2013)

La condizione di donne e ragazze in Yemen, che continuano a essere pesantemente discriminate e vittime di violenze, suscita grande apprensione. La disparità e la discriminazione contro le donne sono un problema strutturale in Yemen che pongono il paese all'ultimo posto del *Global Gender Gap Index* del 2012, l'indice mondiale sul divario di genere.

Questa situazione inammissibile è dettata tra le altre cose dall'assenza di un quadro giuridico adeguato a tutela di donne e ragazze. Il codice penale yemenita è tuttora particolarmente indulgente verso chi commette reati contro le donne e non considera reati numerosi «delitti d'onore», tra cui i matrimoni precoci forzati e le violenze domestiche.

La questione è stata sollevata dalla AR/VP il 14 settembre 2013 in una dichiarazione in reazione alla notizia della morte di una bambina di otto anni a seguito delle lesioni riportate durante la prima notte di nozze. L'AR/VP ha ricordato la responsabilità dell'autorità yemenite che devono assolvere agli obblighi assunti nel rispetto del diritto internazionale e creare un quadro normativo che metta fine a queste pratiche esecrabili.

Nel quadro degli strumenti tematici e bilaterali e in cooperazione con la società civile, le organizzazioni internazionali e le istituzioni pubbliche, l'UE sostiene attivamente gli sforzi volti a tutelare i diritti di donne e e a creare istituzioni giudiziarie attente ai minori. La partecipazione della società civile yemenita è fondamentale per poter ottenere progressi concreti e contrastare le tradizioni tribali, sociali, religiose e locali che alimentano la discriminazione e la violenza contro donne e ragazze.

L'Unione nutre speranze per le recenti conclusioni del gruppo di lavoro sui diritti e le libertà nel quadro della Conferenza nazionale yemenita per il dialogo, che si è espresso a favore di una quota femminile del 30 % nelle istituzioni pubbliche e del ripristino dell'età minima per i matrimoni.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012265/13
adresată Comisiei
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Arderea fetelor în Yemen

Recent, unei fete de 15 ani din Yemen i s-a dat foc de vie de către tatăl ei pentru că a avut legături cu viitorul soț înainte de nuntă.

Arderile de vii ale fiicelor, soțiilor sau surorilor reprezintă un fenomen frecvent în Yemen, ca represalii pentru „pătarea onoarei familiei”, în pofida presiunilor exercitate de organizațiile internaționale și de apărătorii drepturilor omului.

Acest eveniment regretabil survine după o serie de incidente recente în care fete din Yemen au fost ucise de membrii familiilor lor din motive similare.

Asigură Comisia finanțare în Yemen cu scopul specific de a combate violența împotriva femeilor și de a garanta că se va face dreptate?

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012271/13
adresată Comisiei (Vicepreședintelui/Înaltului Reprezentant)
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: VP/HR — Arderea fetelor în Yemen

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Acest eveniment regretabil survine după o serie de incidente recente în care fete din Yemen au fost ucise de membrii familiilor lor din motive similare.

Într-o declarație recentă, Înaltul Reprezentant al Uniunii pentru afaceri externe și politica de securitate a condamnat această situație și a solicitat autorităților din Yemen să ia măsuri mai eficiente pentru protecția femeilor și a fetelor.

Cum va acționa Înaltul Reprezentant al Uniunii pentru afaceri externe și politica de securitate, prin intermediul delegației UE la Sana sau prin alte mijloace, pentru a combate aceste acte atroce de violență comise împotriva fetelor din Yemen?

Răspuns comun dat de Înaltul Reprezentant/doamna vicepreședinte Ashton în numele Comisiei
(13 decembrie 2013)

UE își exprimă îngrijorarea cu privire la situația femeilor și a fetelor din Yemen, care sunt în continuare discriminate în mare măsură și pot face obiectul violențelor. Inechitatea și discriminarea structurală a femeilor în întreaga țară a condus la cel mai mare decalaj între femei și bărbați la nivel mondial, conform Indicelui global privind disparitatea de gen (*Gender Gap Index*) pe 2012.

Unul dintre motivele acestei situații inacceptabile este lipsa unui cadru juridic adecvat pentru protecția femeilor și a fetelor. Codul penal din Yemen este în continuare deosebit de permisiv în privința persoanelor acuzate de săvârșirea de infracțiuni împotriva femeilor și nu abordează o gamă largă de crime de onoare, inclusiv căsătoria timpurie forțată și violența domestică.

Problema a fost ridicată de către IR/VP în cadrul unei declarații din data de 14 septembrie 2013, ca reacție la rapoartele cu privire la moartea unei fete de 8 ani, cauzată de leziunile suferite în noaptea nunții. ÎR/VP a reamintit de responsabilitatea autorităților yemenite de a-și respecta obligațiile ce le revin în temeiul dreptului internațional și de a institui un cadru juridic pentru a combate aceste practici înfiorătoare.

UE sprijină în mod activ eforturile de protejare a drepturile femeilor și fetelor și de a institui instituții judiciare care să apere interesele copiilor, prin intermediul instrumentelor sale bilaterale și tematice și în cooperare cu societatea civilă, cu organizațiile internaționale și cu instituțiile de stat. Implicarea populației yemenite este indispensabilă pentru realizarea de progrese concrete prin abordarea tradițiilor tribale, sociale, religioase și locale care stau la baza discriminării și violenței împotriva femeilor și fetelor.

UE este încurajată de concluziile recente ale Grupului de lucru pentru drepturi și libertăți ale Conferinței pentru dialog național din Yemen, în care s-a promovat ideea ca procentul femeilor angajate în instituțiile publice să fie de 30%, precum și reinstituirea legislației care să stabilească o vârstă minimă pentru căsătorie.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012265/13
to the Commission
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Burnings of Yemeni girls

Recently a 15-year-old Yemeni girl was burnt to death by her father for being in contact with her husband-to-be before their wedding.

Burnings of daughters, wives or sisters are frequent in Yemen for 'breaching family honour', despite pressure from international organisations and human rights activists.

This regrettable event comes after a series of recent incidents involving girls in Yemen being killed by members of their families for similar reasons.

Does the Commission allocate funding to Yemen specifically to combat brutality against women and girls and to ensure that justice is served?

Question for written answer E-012271/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Burnings of Yemeni girls

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This regrettable event comes after a series of recent incidents involving girls in Yemen being killed by members of their families for similar reasons.

In a recent statement, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy condemned the situation and urged the Yemeni authorities to take more effective action to protect women and girls.

How will the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, either through the EU delegation in Sana'a or by other means, take action to combat such atrocious acts of violence against Yemeni girls?

Question for written answer E-012672/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Fiorello Provera (EFD) and Charles Tannock (ECR)
(8 November 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Yemeni girl burned to death

On 22 October 2013, a number of news agencies reported the case of a 15-year-old Yemeni girl who was burned to death by her father for allegedly meeting her fiancé before their wedding. The girl lived in the village of Shabaa in the southern highland province of Taez. Villagers report that the girl's father caught her on the phone to her fiancé. In many parts of Yemen, tribal loyalties and customs take precedence over the laws of the central government in Sanaa. Tribal customs in parts of Yemen prohibit contact between men and women before marriage, whilst poverty and concern for honour often mean parents try to marry off their daughters while they are still young. Honour killings are not uncommon and there have been numerous cases of daughters, wives and sisters being killed by male relatives on the grounds of dishonouring their families.

1. Which specific projects in Yemen is the EU contributing to in order to address the problem of honour killings?

2. In Yemen currently only 29% of adult women are literate. What steps is the EU taking to help improve the literacy rates of women in countries which suffer from significant gender disparities?

3. What is the assessment of EU officials in Sanaa regarding the government's response to cases of honour killings?

Joint answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(13 December 2013)

The EU is concerned about the situation of women and girls in Yemen, who remain largely discriminated and can be subject to violence. The structural inequality and discrimination of women throughout the country has led to the highest gender gap worldwide as per the Gender Gap Index in 2012.

One of the reasons for this unacceptable situation is the absence of an appropriate legal framework for the protection of women and girls. Yemen's criminal code remains particularly lenient towards those accused of having committed crimes against women and fails to address a wide range of honour crimes, including forced early marriage and domestic violence.

The issue was raised by HR/VP in a statement dated 14 September 2013, in reaction to the reports of the death of an eight year old girl from injuries sustained on her wedding night. The HR/VP recalled the responsibility of the Yemeni authorities to abide by their obligations under International Law and put in place a legislative framework to counter the horrendous practices.

The EU is actively supporting efforts to protect the rights of women and girls and to establish child friendly judicial institutions via its thematic and bilateral instruments and in cooperation with civil society, international organisations and state institutions. The involvement of Yemenis is indispensable to achieve concrete progress by tackling the tribal, social, religious and local traditions, which are the root causes of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The EU is encouraged by the recent conclusions of the Rights and Freedoms Working Group of Yemen's National Dialogue Conference in favour of a quota of 30% of women in Public Institutions and of the reinstatement of legislation setting a minimum age for marriage.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012267/13
adresată Comisiei
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Virusul poliomielitic — acțiuni urgente de imunizare

În decursul acestei luni s-au descoperit două cazuri suspecte de poliomielită în Siria, cu toate că boala a fost considerată eradicată în urmă cu 14 ani în această țară.

Deși nu există tratament pentru această boală, ea poate fi prevenită prin vaccinurile de imunizare administrate copilului în doze multiple la o vârstă fragedă.

Conform Inițiativei mondiale de eradicare a poliomielitei, până în prezent s-au raportat 296 de cazuri la nivel mondial în 2013.

Organizația Mondială a Sănătății (OMS) a avertizat că în momentul de față, „din cauza situației actuale, Siria prezintă un risc ridicat în ceea ce privește poliomielita și alte boli care pot fi prevenite prin vaccinare". Având în vedere că aproape 2,2 milioane de refugiați au părăsit Siria, OMS recomandă ca toate persoanele care călătoresc în zonele infectate de poliomielită sau care provin din aceste zone să fie vaccinate în mod corespunzător.

1. Având în vedere situația actuală, este Comisia pregătită pentru acțiuni urgente de imunizare în țările învecinate Siriei? Care este poziția Comisiei în ceea ce privește statele membre UE în care refugiații provenind din zonele infectate au solicitat azil?

2. În cazul în care Comisia este de acord, în ce mod prevede să contribuie la aceste acțiuni?

Răspuns dat de dna Georgieva în numele Comisiei
(17 decembrie 2013)

Comisia urmărește îndeaproape situația din Siria și din țările vecine și este în contact permanent cu OMS și organizațiile partenere din domeniul sănătății pentru a monitoriza progresele înregistrate în cadrul activităților de vaccinare în întreaga regiune.

Sub coordonarea ministerelor sănătății, a OMS și a UNICEF, a fost pregătită o strategie de răspuns la nivel regional și sunt planificate sau în curs de elaborare campanii de vaccinare sincronizate, care vizează 22 de milioane de copii cu vârste de sub 5 ani, în Siria, Egipt, Irak, Iordania, Liban, Palestina și Turcia.

În ceea ce privește finanțarea, Comisia a fost pregătită pentru o astfel de amenințare la adresa sănătății și, prin bugetul UE destinat asistenței umanitare, a angajat deja 13,5 milioane EUR pentru OMS, de la începutul conflictului. Comisia este pregătită să își sporească sprijinul, dacă este necesar. În această etapă, valoarea totală a asistenței oferite de UE ca răspuns la criza din Siria, cu caracter umanitar și de altă natură, se ridică la peste 2 miliarde EUR.

În ceea ce privește susținerea, Comisia solicită tuturor părților implicate în conflict să asigure accesul deplin și sigur al echipelor de sănătate care participă la campania de imunizare împotriva poliomielitei din Siria. De asemenea, Comisia îndeamnă părțile implicate să ia toate măsurile necesare pentru a asigura furnizarea la timp a vaccinurilor, a echipamentelor și a materialelor de vaccinare în toată țara.

În ceea ce privește statele membre, Comisia a luat măsuri în timp util, furnizând imediat informații cu privire la epidemia de poliomielită din Siria prin sistemul de alertă al UE privind bolile transmisibile. În plus, la 21 octombrie a fost prezentată o evaluare a riscurilor, care a inclus recomandări pentru țările UE care primesc solicitanți de azil din regiune. Aceste recomandări s-au concentrat pe necesitatea de a consolida activitățile de supraveghere, de a evalua situația solicitanților de azil în ceea ce privește vaccinarea și de a asigura armonizarea deplină cu recomandările OMS privind călătoriile internaționale și sănătatea.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012267/13
to the Commission
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Polio virus — emergency immunisation activities

This month in Syria, two suspected cases of polio have been detected, although the disease was thought to have been eradicated in that country 14 years ago.

Although there is no cure for this disease, it can be prevented with immunisation vaccines given to a child in multiple doses at an early age.

According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 296 cases have been reported so far worldwide in 2013.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that now 'Syria is considered at high risk for polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases due to the current situation'. With almost 2.2 million refugees having fled Syria, the WHO recommends that all travellers to and from polio-infected areas should be fully vaccinated.

1. Is the Commission prepared for emergency immunisation activities in Syria's neighbour countries in view of the current situation? What is its position regarding the EU Member States where refugees from polio-infected areas have requested asylum?

2. If the Commission agrees, how will it consider contributing to these activities?

Answer given by Ms Georgieva on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

The Commission is closely following the situation inside Syria and neighbouring countries and is in constant contact with WHO and health partners to monitor the progress of vaccination activities throughout the region.

Under the coordination of the Ministries of Health, WHO and Unicef, a regional response strategy has been prepared and synchronized vaccination campaigns — targeting 22 million children under five- are being planned or underway in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Turkey.

Funding-wise, the Commission was prepared for such a health scare and, through the EU humanitarian budget, has already committed EUR 13.5 million to WHO since the beginning of the conflict. The Commission stands ready to increase its support if needed. At this stage, the EU's overall assistance in response to the Syria crisis, humanitarian and other, amounts to over EUR 2 billion.

In terms of advocay, the Commission calls on all parties to the conflict to ensure safe and full access of health teams participating in the polio immunization campaign in Syria. It also urges the need to take all necessary measures for the timely delivery of vaccines and vaccination equipment and supplies countrywide.

Regarding Member States, the Commission has taken timely measures, promptly reporting on the polio outbreak in Syria through the EU alerting system on communicable diseases. Furthermore, a risk assessment was presented on 21 October, including recommendations for EU countries receiving asylum-seekers from the region. These focused on the need to reinforce surveillance activities; to assess asylum-seekers' vaccination status on arrival and provide polio vaccination as needed; to fully align with WHO International Travel and Health recommendations.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012268/13
adresată Comisiei
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Finanțarea eradicării poliomielitei

Poliomielita este o boală virală incurabilă care atacă sistemul nervos provocând în câteva ore o paralizie ireversibilă pe viață. Deși nu există tratament pentru această boală, ea poate fi prevenită prin vaccinurile de imunizare administrate copilului în doze multiple la o vârstă fragedă.

Cu toate că la un moment dat poliomielita a fost eradicată la nivel mondial, în prezent ea a redevenit endemică în trei țări (Afganistan, Nigeria și Pakistan), cazuri sporadice fiind raportate din când în când în alte locuri. Conform Inițiativei mondiale de eradicare a poliomielitei, până în prezent s-au raportat 296 de cazuri la nivel mondial în 2013.

La începutul acestui an, IMEP a lansat Planul strategic de eradicare definitivă a poliomielitei pentru perioada 2013-2018, având un buget prevăzut de 5,5 miliarde USD, cu obiectivul de a eradica boala pentru a doua oară în istorie.

Comisia a acordat 6,5 miliarde USD acestui plan cu ocazia Summitului mondial privind vaccinarea care a avut loc la Abu Dhabi în aprilie 2013, la care a participat președintele Barroso.

1. Prin intermediul cărui instrument financiar prevede Comisia să acorde această finanțare?

2. Este pregătită Comisia să majoreze suma respectivă în cazul în care este necesar? În ce măsură?

Răspuns dat de dl Piebalgs în numele Comisiei
(10 decembrie 2013)

1) Instrumentul de cooperare pentru dezvoltare va furniza resursele financiare necesare pentru îndeplinirea angajamentului de finanțare a Planului strategic aferent perioadei 2013-2018 care a fost lansat de Inițiativa mondială de eradicare a poliomielitei.

2) Nu există posibilitatea de a majora suma alocată nici din Instrumentul de cooperare pentru dezvoltare, nici din cel de al 10-lea Fond european de dezvoltare.

Cu toate acestea, astfel cum a subliniat președintele Barroso în urma conferinței de la Abu Dhabi, contribuția Comisiei Europene la actualul efort de eradicare a poliomielitei va fi structurată pe două niveluri.

La nivel de țară, în Nigeria și în Afganistan (două din cele trei țări în care poliomielita este endemică), Comisia are în vedere consolidarea sistemului de sănătate și a infrastructurii, acestea constituind principalele componente vizate de măsurile necesare în vederea îndeplinirii obiectivului de eradicare a poliomielitei.

În plus, Comisia intenționează să completeze sprijinul pe care îl acordă sistemului de imunizare prin creșterea finanțării alocate Alianței mondiale pentru vaccinuri și imunizare (GAVI).

De asemenea, Comisia dorește să invite distinsa deputată în Parlamentul European să consulte răspunsurile sale la întrebările anterioare E-011670/2012 și E-001491/2013 ([1]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/ro/parliamentary-questions.html;jsessionid=987EC3257DF4C7A682B41123ABBD3EED.node1

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012268/13
to the Commission
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Funding the eradication of polio

Polio is an incurable viral disease that attacks the nervous system, causing irreversible lifelong paralysis within a few hours. While there is no cure for this disease, it can be prevented with immunisation vaccines given to children in multiple doses in their early years.

Although, at one stage, polio had been eradicated worldwide, it is now once again endemic in three countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan), and sporadic cases occur from time to time elsewhere. According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), 296 cases have so far been reported globally in 2013.

At the beginning of this year, GPEI launched the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018, with a projected budget of USD 5.5 billion, aimed at eradicating the disease for the second time in history.

The Commission pledged USD 6.5 million to the plan at the Global Vaccine Summit in Abu Dhabi in April 2013, which President Barroso attended.

1. From which financing instrument does the Commission plan to source this funding?

2. Is the Commission ready to increase the amount if necessary? To what extent?

Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission
(10 December 2013)

1. The Development Cooperation Instrument will provide the financial resources for the pledge of funding to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

2. There is no possibility of increasing this amount either from the DCI or the 10th EDF.

However, as underlined by the President Barroso in the wake of the Abu Dhabi conference, the European Commission’s future contribution to the current eradication effort will operate at two levels.

At country level, in Nigeria and Afghanistan (two of the three polio endemic countries), the Commission envisages strengthening health systems and infrastructure, which are at the core of the polio eradication objective.

In addition, the Commission intends to complement its support to the immunization system by increasing funding to the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI).

The Commission also refers the Honourable Member to the answers given to previous questions E-011670/2012 and E-001491/2013. [1]

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(1) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/fr/parliamentary-questions.html;jsessionid=987EC3257DF4C7A682B41123ABBD3EED.node1

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012269/13
adresată Comisiei
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Securitatea porturilor și a comerțului în lumina vulnerabilităților sistemelor de identificare automată

Societatea japoneză Trend Micro, activă în domeniul securității cibernetice, a publicat la 15 octombrie 2013 un raport în care erau identificate o serie de deficiențe grave în materie de securitate în ceea ce privește sistemele de identificare automată a navelor maritime (AIS), utilizate pentru a detecta locația și a identifica conținutul navelor comerciale. Societatea a constatat că aceste sisteme sunt vulnerabile în fața atacurilor informatice, fiind astfel posibil să se modifice datele privind locația navelor, să se introducă date false privind nave inexistente, să se lanseze false apeluri de tip „om la apă" și să se afișeze informații privind conținutul unei nave. Astfel de probleme de securitate pot să facă porturile din UE vulnerabile în fața traficului de produse ilegale și pot să submineze siguranța navelor statelor membre, prin creșterea gradului de risc asociat cu pirateria.

1. Ce măsuri va lua Comisia pentru a reevalua politica comună de securitate și de apărare în ceea ce privește securitatea cibernetică a porturilor din UE, astfel încât să se țină seama de amenințările emergente și aflate în continuă schimbare din domeniul securității cibernetice, vizând, în special, porturile și navele din UE?

2. Este obligatoriu pentru toate navele comerciale construite în UE sau care au un port de escală într-un stat membru al UE să dețină un sistem de identificare automată (AIS)? Ce sugestii poate face Comisia pentru a îmbunătăți sistemele utilizate, astfel încât să se ofere o protecție sporită porturilor și navelor din UE împotriva atacurilor cibernetice și a manipulării datelor?

Răspuns dat de dl Kallas în numele Comisiei
(20 decembrie 2013)

1. În conformitate cu propunerea de directivă a Comisiei privind măsuri de asigurare a unui nivel comun ridicat de securitate a rețelelor și a informației în Uniune ([1]), transportatorii maritimi și porturile adoptă măsuri adecvate de gestionare a riscurilor legate de securitatea cibernetică și raportează incidentele semnificative autorităților naționale competente.

De asemenea, se estimează că vor fi utile și recomandările privind cele mai bune practici în materie de securitate cibernetică, oferite de platforma public-privată pentru securitatea rețelelor și a informației ([2]), anunțată de strategia în materie de securitate cibernetică a Uniunii Europene ([3]).

2. În conformitate cu Directiva 2002/59/CE ([4]), toate navele comerciale cu un tonaj brut de 300 tone trebuie să fie dotate cu transpondere AIS, care să pună în aplicare obligațiile care decurg din Convenția internațională pentru ocrotirea vieții omenești pe mare (SOLAS) la nivel internațional și care sunt aplicabile oricărui tip de navă, indiferent de pavilion, care face escală într-un port din UE.

Deși Comisia împărtășește preocuparea cu privire la eventualele „atacuri cibernetice" care pot submina robustețea instrumentelor de navigație, astfel de sisteme sunt însă, în esență, instrumente de sprijin; responsabilitatea este în primul rând a comandantului și a echipajului de punte. Navigarea navei, chiar și fără sprijinul unor instrumente sofisticate, rămâne de o importanță majoră în orice situație, inclusiv în cazul eventualelor „atacuri cibernetice".

Comisia sprijină lucrările privind standardele pentru e-navigație și securitatea acesteia, prin:

— sistemul de identificare și de urmărire la mare distanță ([5]) (*Long Range Identification and Tracking* — LRIT) dezvoltat de OMI pentru aspectele specifice ale securității maritime, care poate fi folosit ca sistem complementar ([6]), în cazul în care semnalele AIS suferă interferențe.

([1]) COM(2013) 48 final. Se face referire în special la articolul 14 și la lista operatorilor de piață din anexa II.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/nis-platform-kick-meeting-working-groups
([3]) JOIN(2013) 1 final.
([4]) JO L 2008, 5.8.2002, cf. articolul 6.
([5]) EMSA operează Centru de date cooperativ LRIT UE, care cuprinde peste 35 de țări. De asemenea, Agenția găzduiește și schimbul internațional de date pentru schimbul de date privind pozițiile navelor între centrele LRIT din întreaga lume. Acest lucru rezultă din configurația inițială în cadrul OMI în scopul combaterii terorismului și a amenințărilor teroriste pe mare.
([6]) Sistemul AIS (sistem de transmisie radio deschis, utilizat pentru siguranța navigației) este dublat de sistemul LRIT (un sistem securizat, punct la punct, utilizat în scopuri de securitate).

— UE a finanțat proiecte precum ACCSEAS ([7]), care investighează aspectele legate de reziliența sistemelor PNT ([8]) și dezvoltarea de tehnologie care să contracareze amenințarea blocării sistemelor GPS.

([7]) Accessibility for Shipping, Efficiency Advantages and Sustainability, http://www.accseas.eu/

([8]) Positioning, Navigation and Timing.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012269/13
to the Commission
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Port and trade security in light of AIS vulnerabilities

Japanese cyber-defence company Trend Micro released a report on 15 October 2013 which identified serious security flaws in maritime automatic identification systems (AIS) used to track the location and contents of commercial vessels. The company found that the systems can be rather easily hacked, allowing the location of vessels to be altered, non-existent vessels added, fake 'man overboard' calls made, and information on a vessel's contents displayed. Such security issues can make EU ports vulnerable to illegal goods smuggling and risks the safety of Member State vessels by making them more susceptible to piracy threats.

1. How will the Commission re-evaluate the Common Security and Defence Policy in the area of cyber security for EU ports to reflect emerging and ever-changing cyber-security threats, notably with regard to threats posed to EU ports and vessels?

2. Are all commercial vessels built in the EU or with a port of call in an EU Member State required to have an AIS? What suggestions can the Commission make to improve the systems used in order to better protect EU ports and vessels from cyber attacks and manipulations?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(20 December 2013)

1. According to the Commission's proposal for a directive concerning measures to ensure a high level of network and information security across the Union ([1]), maritime carriers as well as ports adopt appropriate measures to manage cybersecurity risks and report significant incidents to the competent national authorities.

It is also expected that the recommendations on cybersecurity best practices delivered by the Public-Private Platform on network and information security ([2]), as announced in the Cybersecurity strategy of the European Union ([3]), will be of assistance.

2. In accordance with Directive 2002/59/EC ([4]), all commercial vessels of 300 gross tonnes must be equipped with AIS transponders, implementing obligations stemming from the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) at international level and applicable to any vessel irrespective of flag, calling at an EU port.

While the Commission shares the concern about possible 'cyber attacks' with the potential to undermine the robustness of navigation tools, such systems are however essentially support tools; the first line of responsibility is with the Master and the crew on the bridge. Navigating the vessel, also without the support of sophisticated tools remains of utmost importance in any situation including possible 'cyber attacks'.

The Commission supports work on standards for, and security of, e-navigation through:

— the Long Range Identification and Tracking ([5]) (LRIT) system developed in IMO for the specific aspects of maritime security which may be used as a complimentary system ([6]), should AIS signals be subject to interference.

— EU funded projects such as ACCSEAS ([7]), looking into the issue of resilient PNT systems ([8]) and the pursuit of technology to counter the threat of GPS jamming.

([1]) COM(2013) 48 final. Reference is made in particular to Article 14 and to the list of market operators laid down in Annex II.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/nis-platform-kick-meeting-working-groups
([3]) JOIN(2013) 1 final.
([4]) OJ L 2008, 5.8.2002, cf Article 6.
([5]) EMSA operates the EU LRJT cooperative Data Centre, covering over 35 countries. The Agency also hosts the International Data. Exchange for the Exchange of ship positions between LRIT data Centres around the world. This stems from the original set up. In IMO for the purposes of counteracting terrorism, and threats of terrorism, at sea.
([6]) The AIS system (open radio broadcast system used for safety of navigation) is doubled by the LRIT system (a secured, point-to-point system used for security purposes).
([7]) Accessibility for Shipping, Efficiency Advantages and Sustainability, http://www.accseas.eu/
([8]) Positioning, Navigation and Timing.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012272/13
adresată Comisiei
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Prelungirea de către Bulgaria a interdicției privind vânzarea terenurilor către străini

În data de 22 octombrie, parlamentul bulgar a prelungit interdicția vânzării terenurilor agricole către străini până în 2020. Comisia este rugată să se pronunțe în ceea ce privește conformitatea cu Tratatul a acestei decizii.

Răspuns dat de domnul Barnier în numele Comisiei
(20 decembrie 2013)

În conformitate cu Tratatul de aderare din 2005, perioada de tranziție în care Bulgaria poate să mențină restricții discriminatorii în ceea ce privește achiziția de terenuri agricole de către resortisanți și persoane juridice din alte state membre ale UE (SEE) expiră la 31 decembrie 2013. Tratatul de aderare nu prevede posibilitatea prelungirii acestei perioade. Prin urmare, începând de la această dată, legislația bulgară privind achiziția de terenuri agricole trebuie să se conformeze legislației UE, în special dispozițiilor privind libera circulație a capitalurilor.

La 22 octombrie 2013, Parlamentul bulgar a adoptat o decizie prin care a delegat Consiliului de Miniștri competența de a adopta măsuri în vederea declarării unui moratoriu, până la 1 ianuarie 2020, asupra achiziției de terenuri agricole în Bulgaria de către persoane fizice și persoane juridice străine. Comisia înțelege că, în prezent, constituționalitatea deciziei respective este examinată de către Curtea Constituțională a Bulgariei. Totuși, în cazul în care Bulgaria continuă să interzică și după 1 ianuarie 2014 achiziționarea de terenuri agricole de către resortisanții și persoanele juridice din UE/SEE, măsurile respective vor trebui să fie examinate din perspectiva conformității lor cu prevederile legislației UE, în special cele referitoare la libera circulație a capitalurilor.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012272/13
to the Commission
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Bulgaria's extension of ban on sale of land to foreigners

On 22 October the Bulgarian Parliament extended the ban on the sale of arable land to foreigners until 2020. Can the Commission give its view as to this decision's compliance with the Treaty?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(20 December 2013)

According to the 2005 Accession Treaty the transitional period allowing Bulgaria to maintain discriminatory restrictions on the acquisition of agricultural land by nationals and legal persons of other EU (EEA) Member States expires on 31 December 2013. The Accession Treaty does not provide for any possibility to extend this period. Thus, as from that date Bulgarian legislation on the acquisition of agricultural land has to comply with EC law, in particular with the provisions on free movement of capital.

On 22 October 2013 the Bulgarian Parliament adopted a decision delegating the power to the Council of Ministers to adopt measures to declare a moratorium on the acquisition of agricultural land in Bulgaria by foreigners and foreign legal entities until 1 January 2020. The Commission understands that the decision is currently under review by the Bulgarian Constitutional Court. If, however, Bulgaria continues to prohibit the acquisition of agricultural land for EU/EEA nationals and legal entities after 1 January 2014, its measures will need to be assessed under EC law provisions, in particular those relating to free movement of capital.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012273/13
adresată Comisiei
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Derularea PEAD în România

În derularea Programului european de ajutorare a persoanelor defavorizate (PEAD) în România au fost identificate o serie de deficiențe. Astfel, cantitățile și tipurile de alimente distribuite sunt diferite în cazul fiecărui beneficiar; alimentele sunt de calitate inferioară; în unele cazuri, alimentele sunt distribuite cu foarte puțin timp înainte de data expirării termenului de valabilitate. Comisia este rugată să precizeze care sunt mijloacele legale de soluționare a acestor deficiențe, reclamate în mod repetat de cei 350 000 de beneficiari români ai PEAD.

Răspuns dat de dl Cioloș în numele Comisiei
(5 decembrie 2013)

Cerințele privind produsele alimentare ce urmează să fie livrate în cadrul Programului european de ajutorare a persoanelor defavorizate, cum ar fi cele referitoare la calitatea sau data expirării produselor alimentare respective, vor fi stabilite în contractul încheiat între operator și Agenția Română de Plăți (APIA). În cazul în care există suspiciuni întemeiate cu privire la nerespectarea obligațiilor contractuale de către operator, Comisia îl invită pe distinsul membru să consulte răspunsul la întrebarea scrisă E-010691/2013 [1] , referitor la responsabilitățile autorităților din statele membre și în special la posibila cale de atac aflată sub jurisdicția serviciilor locale de anchetă și a instanțelor locale.

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

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012273/13
to the Commission
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Implementation of PEAD in Romania

A number of deficiencies have been identified during the implementation of the European Food Aid Programme for the Most Deprived (PEAD) in Romania. This includes such things as the quantities and types of food distributed varying for each beneficiary and food being of inferior quality. In some cases, food is distributed a very short time before its shelf-life expiry date. Can the Commission explain what legal remedies are being used to rectify these deficiencies, which have been reported repeatedly by the 350 000 beneficiaries of PEAD in Romania?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(5 December 2013)

The requirements on food products to be delivered in the framework of the Most Deprived Programme of the EU, such as the quality or expiry date of the food products, shall be defined in the contract concluded between the operator and the Romanian Paying Agency (APIA). In case of reasonable suspicion that the operator failed to respect its obligations arising from this contract, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-010691/2013 ([1]) on the responsibilities of Member State authorities and, in particular, the possible legal remedy falling into the jurisdiction of the local investigative authorities and the local Courts.

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

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012274/13
adresată Comisiei
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Virusul poliomielitic amenință din nou Europa

Centrul European de Prevenire și Control al Bolilor a transmis recent o avertizare rapidă, în care atenționează că în Siria au fost depistate cazuri de paralizie la copii din cauza poliomielitei. Riscul de revenire a bolii în Europa este extrem de mare, în condițiile în care foarte mulți refugiați sirieni se stabilesc în țările europene. Statisticile arată că 10 % din copiii nevaccinați care contractează boala mor, alți 15 % rămân cu paralizii severe pe tot parcursul vieții, iar 25 % rămân cu paralizii moderate.

În aceste condiții:

1. Ce măsuri prevede Comisia pentru a preveni răspândirea acestui virus în Europa?

2. Intenționează Comisia să impulsioneze statele membre să garanteze imunizarea la timp a tuturor nou-născuților împotriva acestei boli necruțătoare?

Răspuns dat de dl Borg în numele Comisiei
(19 decembrie 2013)

Comisia monitorizează îndeaproape situația privind poliomielita în Siria, împreună cu Centrul European de Prevenire și Control al Bolilor (ECDC) și Organizația Mondială a Sănătății. La 19 octombrie 2013, Comisia a informat statele membre cu privire la izbucnirea epidemiei și a convocat o reuniune, la 21 octombrie 2013, pentru a discuta despre posibile acțiuni coordonate care trebuie întreprinse la nivelul UE.

UE, în temeiul Deciziei 1082/2013/CE ([1]) a Parlamentului European și a Consiliului, urmărește să consolideze coordonarea capacității de reacție la amenințările transfrontaliere grave la adresa sănătății, inclusiv o posibilă răspândire a virusului poliomielitic în UE, ca o consecință a situației din Siria.

Comisia organizează consultări periodice cu statele membre, prin intermediul Comitetului pentru securitate sanitară, pentru a sprijini schimbul de informații și pentru a coordona posibile măsuri la nivelul Uniunii care au drept scop reducerea la minimum a riscului răspândirii virusului poliomielitic în UE.

În prezent, pe baza consultărilor și evaluărilor realizate de OMS și ECDC, riscul reintroducerii poliomielitei în UE este scăzut. Statele membre par a fi bine pregătite și, de exemplu, au întărit măsurile de monitorizare a prezenței virusului în aer și la oameni, au activat laboratoarele naționale care se ocupă cu virusul poliomielitic și au informat personalul medical și călătorii. Imunizarea este de competența statelor membre și, în baza informațiilor comunicate prin intermediul Comitetului pentru securitate sanitară, vaccinarea împotriva poliomielitei este pusă în aplicare în mod eficient la nivel național.

([1]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:293:0001:0015:EN:PDF

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012274/13
to the Commission
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Recurring threat of polio virus in Europe

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has recently issued an urgent warning, highlighting that cases of paralysis have been detected in children in Syria due to polio. There is an extremely high risk of the disease recurring in Europe, at a time when a huge number of Syrian refugees are settling in European countries. According to the statistics, 10% of unvaccinated children who contract the disease die, another 15% remain severely paralysed throughout their lives, while 25% remain with moderate paralysis.

In these circumstances:

1. What measures does the Commission envisage in order to prevent the spread of this virus in Europe?

2. Does the Commission intend to make Member States guarantee the timely immunisation of all newborn infants against this cruel condition?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

The Commission is monitoring closely the situation of polio in Syria, with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organisation. On 19 October 2013, the Commission informed the EU Member States about the outbreak and convened a meeting on 21 October 2013 to discuss possible coordinated actions to be taken at EU level.

The EU, under Decision 1082/2013/EC ([1]) of the European Parliament and of the Council aims to strengthen coordination of response to serious cross-border threats to health, including the case of possible spread of poliovirus in the Union as a consequence of the situation in Syria.

The Commission organises regular consultations with the Member States through the Health Security Committee to support the exchange of information and to coordinate possible measures at Union level to minimise the risk of the spread of poliovirus in the EU.

Currently, on the basis of consultations and of the WHO and ECDC assessment, the risk for reintroducing poliomyelitis in the EU appears low. Member States appear well prepared and have, for example, reinforced measures to monitor the presence of poliovirus in the environment and in persons; activated the national laboratories on poliovirus; and informed healthcare workers and travellers. Immunisation is a national competence and on the basis of the information shared through the Health Security Committee it appears that vaccination against poliovirus is implemented efficiently at national level.

([1]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:293:0001:0015:EN:PDF

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012275/13
adresată Comisiei
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Redactarea programelor naționale de dezvoltare rurală în statele membre

Comisia este rugată să furnizeze următoarele informații:

În redactarea programelor naționale de dezvoltare rurală pentru perioada 2007-2013, câte dintre statele membre au contractat acest proces de redactare cu societăți comerciale sau alte tipuri de structuri private, respectiv câte au realizat aceste documente prin instituțiile de stat competente?

Răspuns dat de domnul Cioloș în numele Comisiei
(3 decembrie 2013)

Organizarea procesului de redactare a programelor naționale și regionale de dezvoltare rurală este responsabilitatea exclusivă a statelor membre. Comisia nu dispune de informații statistice privind acest proces. Cu toate acestea, ar trebui subliniat faptul că autoritatea de gestionare și, prin urmare, instituția guvernamentală poartă întreaga răspundere pentru conținutul și gestionarea programului, indiferent dacă a fost sau nu sprijinită în redactarea lui de o societate comercială.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012275/13
to the Commission
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Drafting national rural development programmes in Member States

Can the Commission provide the following information?

When drafting their national rural development programmes for the 2007-2013 period, how many Member States outsourced the drafting process to commercial companies or other types of private organisations, and how many deployed the relevant government institutions to produce these documents?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(3 December 2013)

The organisation of the process to draft national and regional rural development programmes is the sole responsibility of the Member States. The Commission does not have any statistical information on this process. It should however be underlined that the Managing Authority and therefore the government insitution bears all responsibility for the content and management of the programme, independently from the fact that it might have been assisted by a commercial company in its preparation.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012276/13
adresată Comisiei
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Definiția „condițiilor artificiale" prevăzute de Regulamentul nr. 65/2011

La articolul 4 alineatul (8) din Regulamentul (CE) nr. 65/2011 al Comisiei de stabilire a normelor de punere în aplicare a Regulamentului (CE) nr. 1698/2005 al Consiliului în ceea ce privește punerea în aplicare a procedurilor de control și a ecocondiționalității în cazul măsurilor de sprijin pentru dezvoltare rurală se precizează următoarele: „Fără a aduce atingere dispozițiilor speciale, nu se efectuează nicio plată către beneficiari în cazul cărora s-a stabilit că au creat în mod artificial condițiile necesare pentru a obține aceste plăți în scopul obținerii unui avantaj care contravine obiectivelor schemei de ajutor".

După cum se poate observa, definirea „condițiilor artificiale" este generică și principială, neexistând nicio detaliere a acestor „condiții artificiale", precizându-se doar interdicția de a nu contraveni obiectivelor măsurii/schemei de ajutor.

Comisia este rugată să clarifice această chestiune cu impact asupra potențialilor beneficiari și să furnizeze o definiție clară a acestor „condiții artificiale".

Răspuns dat de dl Cioloș în numele Comisiei
(10 decembrie 2013)

Comisia nu a oferit și nu intenționează să ofere o definiție clară, lipsită de ambiguități privind clauza de eludare „creată artificial", utilizată în Regulamentul (UE) nr. 65/2011 ([1]), întrucât conceptul este mult prea specific contextului. În același fel, articolul 62 din proiectul de regulament privind finanțarea, gestionarea și monitorizarea politicii agricole comune ([2]) prevede că, fără a aduce atingere dispozițiilor specifice, nu se acordă niciun avantaj prevăzut în cadrul legislației sectoriale agricole în favoarea unei persoane fizice sau juridice în privința căreia s-a stabilit că condițiile cerute în vederea obținerii acestor avantaje au fost create în mod artificial, contrar obiectivelor legislației respective.

Această poziție este sprijinită de Curtea de Justiție care, în recenta sa hotărâre privind clauza de eludare (Cauza C-434/12), a reamintit faptul că decizia privind o eventuală practică abuzivă din partea unui operator poate fi stabilită combinând două elemente: circumstanțele obiective în care scopul normelor nu este îndeplinit, în pofida respectării formale a condițiilor prevăzute de legislația UE și un element subiectiv constând în intenția de a obține un avantaj.

În primul rând, în ceea ce privește elementul obiectiv, Curtea a constatat faptul că trebuie să se examineze dacă scopul schemei de ajutor în cauză poate fi atins. În al doilea rând, în ceea ce privește elementul subiectiv, Curtea a considerat că trebuie examinat conținutul real și importanța cererii de ajutor în litigiu. Prin urmare, fiecare beneficiar trebuie să facă obiectul unei analize separate și individuale, întrucât cele două elemente introduse de Curtea de Justiție trebuie să fie examinate pe baza meritelor și particularităților fiecărui caz în parte.

([1]) JO L 25, 28.1.2011.
([2]) COM (2011) 628 final/2.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012276/13
to the Commission
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Definition of 'artificial conditions' laid down by Regulation (EU) No 65/2011

Article 4(8) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 65/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, as regards the implementation of control procedures as well as cross-compliance in respect of rural development support measures, stipulates the following: 'Without prejudice to specific provisions, no payments shall be made to beneficiaries for whom it is established that they artificially created the conditions required for obtaining such payments with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the support scheme.'

As can be seen, a generic, abstract definition is given of 'artificial conditions', without mentioning any details of what these 'artificial conditions' are, stating only that it is prohibited to breach the objectives of the support measure/scheme.

Can the Commission clarify this issue, which has an impact on potential beneficiaries, and provide a clear definition of these 'artificial conditions'?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(10 December 2013)

The Commission has not, and is not planning to provide a clear, unambiguous definition of the circumvention clause 'artificially created' used in Regulation (EU) No 65/2011 ([1]), as the concept is too context specific. Similarly, Article 62 of the draft regulation on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy ([2]) states that without prejudice to specific provisions, no advantage provided for under the sectoral agricultural legislation shall be granted in favour of a natural or legal person in respect of whom it is established that the conditions required for obtaining such advantages were created artificially, contrary to the objectives of that legislation.

This position is supported by the Court of Justice which, in its recent judgment on the circumvention clause (Case C-434/12), reminded that an abusive practice of an operator could be established by a combination of two elements: objective circumstances in which the purpose of the rules is not achieved despite formal observance of the conditions laid down in EU legislation, and a subjective element consisting in the intention to obtain an advantage

First, as regards the objective element, the Court noted that it must be examined whether the purpose of the support scheme at stake can be achieved. Secondly, in relation to the subjective element, the Court held that the real substance and significance of the disputed aid application should be examined. Therefore, every beneficiary must be subject to a separate and individual analysis as the two elements introduced by the Court should be examined on the merits and particularities of each case.

([1]) OJ L 25, 28.1.2011.
([2]) COM(2011) 628 final/2.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012277/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(28 octobre 2013)

Objet: Déchets marins

Les mers et les océans deviennent progressivement les décharges de la planète; les déchets plastiques représentent 80 % des immenses plaques de déchets qui flottent dans les océans Atlantique et Pacifique et entraînent la mort de nombreuses espèces marines.

Lors de la conférence Rio + 20 sur le développement durable, un engagement a été pris au niveau mondial pour l'adoption de mesures visant, d'ici à 2025, à «réduire significativement le volume des déchets marins et prévenir ainsi les dommages au milieu côtier et marin».

Environ 10 millions de tonnes de déchets finissent chaque année dans les mers et les océans du globe. Le terme «déchets marins» couvre une gamme de matériaux ayant été délibérément jetés ou accidentellement perdus sur le littoral ou en mer, et inclut également les matériaux qui proviennent des terres, des rivières, des systèmes d'évacuation et d'assainissement ou qui sont portés par le vent. Il s'agit souvent de matériaux solides manufacturés et transformés persistants, tels que le plastique, le verre et le métal.

1. Comment la Commission compte-t-elle fixer un objectif de réduction quantitatif prioritaire à l'échelle de l'Union pour les déchets marins, comme le préconise le 7e programme d'action pour l'environnement récemment adopté?

2. La Commission dispose-t-elle de chiffres sur la masse de ce type de déchets en Europe et dans le monde?

Réponse commune donnée par M. Potočnik au nom de la Commission
(13 décembre 2013)

La Commission analyse actuellement, dans le cadre plus vaste de ses travaux sur l'économie circulaire, les options envisageables dans la perspective d'un objectif de réduction des déchets marins. Le réexamen des objectifs de la directive-cadre relative aux déchets ([1]), de la directive concernant la mise en décharge des déchets ([2]) et de la directive relative aux emballages et aux déchets d'emballages ([3]) contribuera à ce processus.

La grande majorité des déchets marins sont d'origine tellurique, et la méthode la plus efficace consisterait à s'attaquer à ce problème à la source. C'est pourquoi la Commission a adopté récemment une proposition modifiant la directive relative aux emballages et aux déchets d'emballages ([4]) en vue de réduire l'utilisation des sacs en plastique légers, qui posent un problème particulier dans le milieu marin (voir le deuxième considérant). En ce qui concerne la directive-cadre établissant la stratégie pour le milieu marin ([5]), les États membres sont tenus, en vertu de l'article 10 de cette directive, de définir des objectifs environnementaux concernant spécifiquement les déchets marins ([6]). La Commission n'a pas l'intention de modifier cette directive.

Il existe peu de données fiables sur les quantités de déchets présentes dans le milieu marin. Dans le cas des mers et des océans de l'UE, la directive-cadre établissant la stratégie pour le milieu marin fait obligation aux États membres de mettre en place, au plus tard en octobre 2014, un programme de surveillance des déchets marins. Pour chaque mer régionale, une vue d'ensemble des sources actuelles de données sur les déchets marins est disponible dans le document thématique publié pour la Conférence internationale sur la prévention et la gestion des déchets marins dans les eaux européennes ([7]), organisée conjointement par la Commission et le gouvernement allemand en avril 2013.

([1]) Directive 2008/98/CE.
([2]) Directive 99/31/CE.
([3]) Directive 94/62/CE.
([4]) COM(2013) 761 final.
([5]) Directive 2008/56/CE.
([6]) Décision 2010/477/UE de la Commission.
([7]) http://www.marine-litter-conference-berlin.info/

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012357/13
adresată Comisiei
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(30 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Modificări propuse la legislația privind deșeurile marine

Un raport recent al Institutului pentru politica europeană în domeniul mediului, intitulat „Cum să îmbunătățim legislația UE pentru a aborda deșeurile marine”, prezintă o serie de sugestii practice de reducere a deșeurilor marine ([1]).

1. Intenționează Comisia să propună modificări la Directiva-cadru „Strategia pentru mediul marin” pentru a introduce obiective cantitative la nivelul UE pentru reducerea deșeurilor marine?

2. Intenționează Comisia să introducă trimiteri specifice la deșeurile marine în legislația relevantă, cum ar fi Directiva-cadru privind deșeurile, Directiva privind ambalajele și deșeurile de ambalaje, Directiva privind vehiculele scoase din uz și Directiva privind deșeurile de echipamente electrice și electronice?

Răspuns comun dat de dl Potočnik în numele Comisiei
(13 decembrie 2013)

În prezent, în cadrul activităților sale mai ample cu privire la economia circulară, Comisia analizează opțiuni pentru stabilirea unui obiectiv în domeniul deșeurilor marine. Revizuirea obiectivelor fixate în Directiva privind deșeurile ([2]), Directiva privind depozitele de deșeuri ([3]) și Directiva privind ambalajele și deșeurile de ambalaje ([4]) va susține acest proces.

Marea majoritate a deșeurilor marine provine de pe uscat și cea mai eficientă modalitate de abordare este de a acționa la sursă. Prin urmare, Comisia a adoptat recent o propunere de modificare a Directivei privind ambalajele și deșeurile de ambalaje ([5]), care vizează reducerea utilizării pungilor de plastic fine, care constituie o problemă deosebită pentru mediul marin (a se vedea considerentul 2). În ceea ce privește Directiva-cadru privind strategia pentru mediul marin ([6]), trebuie să fie stabilite obiective de mediu specifice de către statele membre, în conformitate cu articolul 10 din această directivă ([7]). Comisia nu intenționează să modifice această directivă.

Există puține date fiabile privind cantitățile de deșeuri din mediul marin. Pentru mările UE, Directiva-cadru privind strategia pentru mediul marin prevede obligația statelor membre de a stabili monitorizarea deșeurilor marine până în octombrie 2014. Un rezumat al surselor actuale, incluzând informații privind deșeurile marine, este disponibil, pentru mări regionale, în documentul tematic publicat pentru Conferința internațională privind prevenirea și gestionarea deșeurilor marine în mările europene ([8]), organizată de Comisie, în parteneriat cu guvernul german, în aprilie 2013.

([1]) http://www.ieep.eu/publications/2013/10/how-to-improve-eu-legislation-to-tackle-marine-litter
([2]) Directiva 2008/98/CE.
([3]) Directiva 99/31/CE.
([4]) Directiva 94/62/CE.
([5]) COM(2013) 761.
([6]) Directiva 2008/56/CE.
([7]) Decizia 2010/477/UE a Comisiei.
([8]) http://www.marine-litter-conference-berlin.info/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012277/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Marine litter

Seas and oceans are gradually becoming the world's rubbish dumps; plastic waste accounts for 80% of the huge clusters of litter that float in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, resulting in the deaths of many marine species.

At the Rio + 20 conference on sustainable development, world leaders committed to adopting measures that aim to 'significantly reduce the volume of marine litter and thus prevent damage to coastal and marine environments' by 2025.

An estimated 10 million tonnes of waste end up in the planet's seas and oceans every year. The term 'marine litter' covers a range of materials that have been deliberately thrown or accidentally lost along the coast or in the sea. It also includes materials that come from soil, rivers, drainage and sewerage systems or that are carried by the wind. It is often made up of solid, durable man-made and processed materials, such as plastic, glass and metal.

1. Does the Commission plan to set an EU-wide quantitative objective for reducing marine litter as a priority, as recommended in the recently adopted 7th Environment Action Programme?

2. Does the Commission have any figures on the quantity of this type of waste in Europe and the rest of the world?

Question for written answer E-012357/13
to the Commission
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Suggested modifications to legislation on marine litter

A recent report by the Institute for European Environmental Policy entitled 'How to improve EU legislation to tackle marine litter', puts forward a number of practical suggestions to reduce marine litter ([1]).

1. Does the Commission intend to propose modifications to the Marine Framework Strategy Directive in order to introduce EU-wide quantitative targets for marine litter reduction?

2. Does the Commission intend to introduce specific references to marine litter in relevant legislation, such as the Waste Framework Directive, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, the End of Life Vehicles Directive and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive?

Joint answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(13 December 2013)

The Commission is currently analysing options for a marine litter target as part of its wider work on the circular economy. The review of the targets of the Waste Framework Directive ([2]), the Landfill Directive ([3]) and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive ([4]) will support this process.

A vast majority of marine litter originates on land, and the most effective way to deal with it is at source. The Commission therefore recently adopted a proposal amending the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive ([5]), aimed at reducing use of lightweight plastic bags, which are a particular problem in the marine environment (see Recital 2). As regards the Marine Strategy Framework Directive ([6]), specific environmental targets for marine litter must be set by the Member States in line with Article 10 of that directive ([7]). The Commission does not intend to modify this directive.

([1]) http://www.ieep.eu/publications/2013/10/how-to-improve-eu-legislation-to-tackle-marine-litter
([2]) Directive 2008/98/EC.
([3]) Directive 99/31/EC.
([4]) Directive 94/62/EC.
([5]) COM(2013) 761.
([6]) Directive 2008/56/EC.
([7]) Commission Decision 2010/477/EU.

Reliable data on quantities of litter in the marine environment are scarce. For EU seas, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive obliges Member States to set-up monitoring of marine litter by October 2014. An overview of present sources with data on marine litter is available, per regional sea, in the Issue Paper published for the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas ([8]), which the Commission co-organised with the German Government in April 2013.

([8]) http://www.marine-litter-conference-berlin.info/

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012278/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(28 octobre 2013)

Objet: Robinetterie et harmonisation

Tous les matériaux en contact avec l'eau potable subissent un hydrocheck. Belgaqua référence à ce sujet des milliers de produits de différentes compositions: du tube de polyéthylène au joint dur ou mou.

Pour la robinetterie, rien de pareil n'existe. C'est étonnant, alors que la composition de votre robinet en laiton est bien un savant mélange de cuivre, zinc et de plomb. Ce dernier métal, présent également dans les anciennes canalisations, est aujourd'hui banni dans le réseau de distribution.

Le bon sens conseillera de ne jamais utiliser l'eau chaude du robinet à des fins alimentaires (café, thé, cuisson des pâtes ou légumes). La température élevée facilite en effet la solubilisation des métaux dans l'eau. Chaude ou non, on conseille aussi de la laisser couler quelque peu avant sa consommation jusqu'à ce qu'elle fraîchisse.

Si le plomb de la robinetterie est concerné au même titre que celui des canalisations, le nickel utilisé sous le revêtement des pièces chromées du robinet, cancérogène et allergénique, peut lui aussi migrer dangereusement.

En 1996, une étude menée en France avait démontré qu'au premier jet d'eau (200 ml après stagnation nocturne), dans 10 % des cas, on atteignait parfois plus de 100 µg/l de nickel en présence d'une robinetterie récente. Soit 5 fois plus que la norme acceptée dans l'UE…

La concentration en nickel dans l'eau dépend surtout de la surface des pièces nickelées/chromées exposées. Les recommandations qui suivaient l'étude demandaient de limiter autant que possible la présence de nickel en contact avec l'eau, en limitant l'usage de ce type de revêtement et en réduisant autant que possible les surfaces concernées.

En 1998, la Commission européenne a tenté d'harmoniser les dispositions nationales concernant les familles d'alliage. Que compte faire la Commission européenne à ce sujet 15 années plus tard?

Réponse donnée par M. Tajani au nom de la Commission
(3 janvier 2014)

La directive 98/83/CE du Conseil du 3 novembre 1998 relative à la qualité des eaux destinées à la consommation humaine assure un niveau de qualité minimal acceptable.

Lors de la transposition de cette directive, les États membres doivent veiller à ce que la qualité des eaux destinées à la consommation humaine demeure dans les limites fixées par la directive. Si les États membres l'estiment nécessaire, ils peuvent adopter des dispositions réglementaires concernant les performances de produits comme les tuyauteries, les robinetteries, etc., qui peuvent avoir une incidence sur la qualité des eaux.

En 2000, la Commission, voulant faciliter la libre circulation de ces produits à l'intérieur du marché unique, a donné mandat au CEN ([1]) de demander à des experts de la normalisation d'élaborer des normes harmonisées pour l'évaluation des produits, composés de différents matériaux (par exemple, du métal, du plastique, de la céramique), qui entrent en contact avec des eaux destinées à la consommation humaine. Ce travail de normalisation a été extrêmement difficile en raison de divergences de vues entre les autorités de réglementation des États membres. La Commission a donc demandé à un petit groupe d'États membres d'étudier en détail la faisabilité d'un rapprochement des points de vue réglementaires nationaux afin de permettre l'élaboration d'un système d'évaluation européen. Si cette tentative devait échouer, la Commission devrait examiner d'autres solutions et même envisager de retirer le mandat du CEN.

Toutefois, la réussite ou l'échec de cet exercice de normalisation n'aura aucun effet direct sur la qualité des eaux destinées à la consommation humaine; c'est aux États membres qu'il incombe d'y veiller, conformément à la directive 98/83/CE.

([1]) Comité européen de normalisation.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012278/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Taps and standardisation

All materials that come into contact with drinking water are subject to a hydrocheck. On this topic, Belgaqua points to thousands of products made up of different materials, from polyethene tubes to hard or soft joints.

There are no similar measures in place for taps. This is surprising, given that your brass tap is really a clever mixture of copper, zinc and lead. The latter, which can also be found in old pipes, is today banned from the distribution network.

Common sense dictates that we should never use hot water from a tap for cooking purposes (such as in coffee or tea, or for cooking pasta or vegetables). This is because the higher temperature makes it easier for metals to dissolve in the water. Hot or not, it is also recommended to run the tap for a while until the water is cool before using it.

Just as the lead used in taps is affected in the same way as that used in pipes, so the nickel used under chromium-plated tap parts, which is carcinogenic and allergenic, can also get into the water supply, causing potential harm.

In 1996, a study conducted in France demonstrated that in 10% of cases, the first jet of water to come out of a modern tap (200 ml after being left overnight) sometimes contained more than 100 µg/l of nickel. This is five times higher than the standard accepted in the EU …

The concentration of nickel in the water depends above all on how much of the nickel- or chromium-plated surface is exposed. The study recommended that the amount of nickel in contact with the water should be limited as much as possible, by reducing the use of this type of coating and by making the affected surfaces as small as possible.

In 1998, the Commission attempted to standardise national regulations on alloys. Fifteen years on, what does the Commission intend to do with regard to this issue?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption ensures a minimum acceptable quality level for such water.

In transposing this directive, Member States have to ensure that the quality of the water intended for human consumption remains within the limits set by the directive. If Member States consider it necessary, they can pass regulations on the performance of products like pipes, taps, etc. which may affect the quality of water.

In an attempt to facilitate the free movement of these products in the Internal market, the Commission issued in 2000 a mandate to CEN ([1]) requesting standardisation experts to elaborate harmonised standards for the assessment of products in contact with water intended for human consumption made out of different materials (e.g. metal, plastic, ceramics). This standardisation work has encountered significant difficulties due to divergent views of Member States regulators. The Commission has therefore asked a small group of Member States to explore in detail the feasibility of approximating national regulatory views to allow the development of a European assessment regime. If this attempt would not be successful, the Commission would need to examine other solutions and even consider withdrawing the CEN mandate.

However, the success or failure of the above standardisation exercise is not intended to have a direct effect on the quality of water intended for human consumption, which must be in any case ensured by Member States, in accordance with Directive 98/83/EC.

([1]) European Committee for Standardisation.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012280/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) et Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(28 octobre 2013)

Objet: Déclaration TVA simplifiée

La Commission a proposé mercredi d'introduire en 2017 une déclaration de TVA simplifiée, qui remplacerait les déclarations de TVA nationales.

On imagine volontiers que l'objectif de cette déclaration réduise les formalités administratives pour les entreprises, notamment celles opérant dans plusieurs États membres, et de faciliter le respect des obligations fiscales.

1. À combien la Commission évalue le bénéfice d'un tel plan?

2. À combien la Commission évalue-t-elle l'impact sur les emplois que le traitement de ces déclarations requiert?

3. Quel est le *modus operandi* de cette déclaration européenne simplifiée?

Réponse donnée par M. Šemeta au nom de la Commission
(29 novembre 2013)

L'objectif de la proposition de directive relative à une déclaration de TVA normalisée est de fournir une procédure simplifiée et normalisée pour les entreprises, de façon à réduire les charges administratives. Cette déclaration de TVA normalisée devrait diminuer les coûts pour les entreprises d'un montant allant jusqu'à 15 milliards d'euros par an. Elle devrait en outre contribuer à améliorer le respect des obligations en matière de TVA et partant, accroître les recettes publiques. La proposition apporte donc une contribution importante à la création d'un système de TVA plus efficace et plus étanche à la fraude.

Grâce à la réduction des charges administratives, les entreprises devraient pouvoir libérer des ressources à des fins plus productives. Des simulations par modèles réalisées dans le cadre de l'analyse d'impact accompagnant cette proposition ont montré qu'une diminution des charges administratives se traduit par un accroissement du PIB et de l'emploi ([1]).

Puisque les informations requises et la procédure de soumission seront normalisées, les entreprises pourront facilement remplir et déposer une déclaration de TVA dans plusieurs États membres. La déclaration de TVA normalisée remplacera toutes les déclarations nationales de TVA et ne comportera que cinq cases obligatoires, tout en laissant aux États membres la possibilité d'y ajouter vingt et une cases, elles aussi normalisées. La proposition encourage également le dépôt électronique, dans la mesure où les entreprises seront autorisées à soumettre leur déclaration par voie électronique selon des règles communes à l'ensemble de l'Union européenne. La déclaration de TVA normalisée devra être déposée sur une base mensuelle, sauf pour les micro-entreprises qui pourront choisir une périodicité trimestrielle.

([1]) SWD(2013) 427 final, point 6.6.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012280/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) and Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Simplified VAT declaration

On Wednesday, the Commission proposed to introduce a simplified VAT declaration in 2017, which would replace national VAT declarations.

One can easily imagine that the aim of this declaration is to reduce the administrative procedures through which businesses have to go, particularly those operating in more than one Member State, and to make it easier for them to meet their tax liabilities.

1. What benefits does the Commission believe will result from such a plan?

2. What impact does the Commission believe the need to process these declarations will have on jobs?

3. What is the *modus operandi* of this simplified European declaration?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(29 November 2013)

The aim of the proposal on a standard VAT return is to provide a simplified and standardised procedure for businesses thereby reducing administrative burdens. Such a standard VAT return is expected to cut costs for businesses by up to EUR 15 billion a year. It should also help to improve VAT compliance and therefore increase public revenues. The proposal is therefore an important contribution to creating a more efficient and more fraud proof VAT system.

By reducing administrative burdens, businesses are expected to free up resources to be used for more productive purposes. Model simulations carried out in the context of the impact assessment linked to this proposal have shown that a decrease in administrative burdens leads to an increase in GDP and employment ([1]).

Since the information and submission procedure will be standardised, businesses could easily complete and submit a VAT return in several Member States. The standard VAT return will replace all national VAT returns and will have only 5 compulsory boxes, with an option for Member States to add up to 21 additional standardised boxes. The proposal also encourages electronic filing, as businesses will be allowed to submit their return electronically according to common rules for the whole European Union. The standard VAT return should be filed on a monthly basis, except for micro-enterprises who can opt for a quarterly VAT return period.

([1]) SWD(2013) 427 final, point 6.6.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012281/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) et Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(28 octobre 2013)

Objet: Cinéma et exception culturelle

Vent debout contre la refonte de la «communication cinéma» définissant un cadre commun européen pour financer le cinéma, les cinéastes réclament que la Commission européenne «respecte le principe de l'exception culturelle».

1. La Commission confirme-t-elle que l'un de ses souhaits est qu'une région ou un État ne puisse plus soutenir, dans les conditions actuelles, un film tourné sur son territoire?

2. Le Centre national du cinéma (CNC) estime l'impact social d'une telle réforme à «10 000 à 16 000 emplois». À combien la Commission européenne l'estime-t-elle? Ces nombreuses pertes d'emplois ont-elles été prises en compte?

3. La Commission va-t-elle (enfin) valider la nouvelle TST-D, taxe payée par l'ensemble des distributeurs de chaînes de télévision (opérateurs télécoms, câblo-opérateurs, bouquets de télévision par satellite)?

Réponse donnée par M. Almunia au nom de la Commission
(17 décembre 2013)

Le 14 novembre 2013, la Commission a adopté de nouvelles règles concernant les aides en faveur du cinéma. Ces règles sont plus généreuses que les précédentes, car elles ne couvrent pas seulement la production, mais aussi l'ensemble du processus cinématographique, depuis l'écriture des scénarios jusqu'à la diffusion auprès du public. Des intensités d'aide plus élevées que par le passé sont autorisées pour les films cofinancés par plusieurs États membres.

1. Chaque État membre ou région peut accorder une aide aux productions cinématographiques, que le tournage ait lieu sur son territoire ou non.

2. La Commission ne pense pas que l'adoption des nouvelles règles entraînera des pertes d'emplois. Il appartient aux États membres de décider s'ils souhaitent soutenir financièrement ou non le secteur audiovisuel. La Commission n'est pas en mesure de déterminer comment le Centre national du cinéma est arrivé aux chiffres indiqués. Ceux-ci pourraient résulter d'estimations réalisées par cette institution, dont la Commission n'a pas connaissance et sur lesquelles elle ne peut raisonnablement avoir une influence.

3. En ce qui concerne la nouvelle TST-D française, notifiée à la Commission le 30 juillet 2013, la Commission a décidé, le 19 novembre dernier, de ne soulever aucune objection. Une fois que les questions de confidentialité auront été clarifiées avec les autorités françaises, le texte de la décision dans la langue faisant foi sera disponible à l'adresse suivante: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012281/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) and Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Cinema and cultural exception

Film-makers are fiercely opposed to reform of the 'Cinema communication', which defines a common European framework for financing film-making. They are calling on the Commission to 'respect the principle of cultural exception'.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether it is happy for a region or country to no longer be able to back, under the present conditions, a film shot on its territory?

2. The Centre national du cinéma (French National Centre for Cinema) estimates the social impact of such a reform to be between '10 000 and 16 000 jobs'. What does the Commission estimate it to be? Has it taken these many job losses into consideration?

3. Will the Commission (finally) approve the new Taxe sur les services de télévision — distributeurs (TST-D), a tax paid by all distributors of television channels (including telecommunications operators, cable operators and providers of satellite TV packages)?

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

On 14 November 2013 the Commission adopted new rules for film aid. These rules are more generous than the preceding ones, as they cover not only film production, but the whole film-making process from script writing till delivery to the audience. Higher aid intensities than previously are allowed for films co-financed by several Member States.

1. Each Member State or region can provide aid to film productions, whether shot on its own territory or not.

2. The Commission does not expect job losses as a consequence of the adoption of the new rules. It is up to Member States to decide whether they want to financially support the audiovisual sector. The Commission is unable to identify how the Centre national du cinéma arrived at the figures mentioned. They may be the possible consequence of plans of this institution of which the Commission is not aware and on which it cannot possibly have an influence.

3. As regards the new French TST-D, which was notified to the Commission on 30 July 2013, the Commission adopted on 19 November 2013 a decision not to raise objections. Once the confidentiality issues are clarified with the French authorities, the text of the decision in the authentic language will be available at: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-012282/13
an die Kommission
Heinz K. Becker (PPE)
(28. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Entscheidung über die Themenstellung des Europäischen Jahres 2014

Entsprechend einem langjährigen Usus stellt die Europäische Union jedes Jahr ein spezifisches Thema von Relevanz für das Leben der europäischen Bürger in den Mittelpunkt seiner Kommunikation nach außen. Dies war zuletzt 2012 mit dem „Europäischen Jahr des aktiven Alterns und der Generationensolidarität" und 2013 mit dem „Europäischen Jahr der Bürgerinnen und Bürger" der Fall.

Diese Themenjahre verfolgen das Ziel, die Bevölkerung für das jeweilige Thema zu sensibilisieren sowie Diskussion und Bewusstseinsbildung anzuregen. Um diesem Anspruch nachkommen zu können, bedarf es jedoch nicht nur eines besonderen Engagements der öffentlichen Behörden — europäischer wie nationaler — und der Politik, sondern auch einer möglichst breiten Einbindung der Bürger sowie der thematisch entsprechenden Organisationen der Zivilgesellschaft.

Damit diese sich jedoch konstruktiv bei den unterschiedlichen Kommunikations- und Informationsmaßnahmen eines Europäischen Jahres (z. B. Veranstaltungen, Veröffentlichungen, Websites, etc.) beteiligen und einbringen können, benötigen sie ausreichende Planbarkeit und Zeit.

Vor diesem Hintergrund ist es äußerst problematisch und auch unverständlich, dass die Europäische Kommission, die in dieser Frage das alleinige (!) Initiativrecht hat, bis zum heutigen Tage noch keinen Vorschlag für das Europäische Jahr 2014 unterbreitet hat.

Bedenkt man, dass dieser Vorschlag noch vom Europäischen Parlament und von den Mitgliedstaaten angenommen werden muss, ist mit einem rechtzeitigen Beschluss bis Jahresbeginn 2014 kaum mehr zu rechnen. Bereits jetzt ist für diverse Kommunikationskampagnen durch engagierte Bürger und Organisationen der Zivilgesellschaft faktisch keine ausreichende Vorbereitungszeit mehr vorhanden. Dies ist umso ärgerlicher, als die Union besonders im Jahr der Wahlen zum Europäischen Parlament eine kohärente und gut vorbereitete Kommunikationsstrategie dringend benötigt!

1. Wann gedenkt die Kommission, endlich ihren Vorschlag für das Europäische Jahr 2014 vorzulegen?

2. Wie plant die Kommission, den durch die Verzögerung verursachten Zeitverlust für die beteiligte Zivilgesellschaft — auch hinsichtlich der für das Fundraising nötigen Zeit — durch höhere öffentliche Haushaltsmittel in diesem Vorschlag zu kompensieren?

Antwort von Herrn Barroso im Namen der Kommission
(3. Dezember 2013)

Bei den Vorgesprächen mit den Interessenvertretern wurden verschiedene Vorschläge für die Themenstellung des Europäischen Jahres 2014 unterbreitet. Abgesehen von ihren eigenen Vorschlägen konnten sich die Interessenvertreter auf kein spezifisches Thema einigen. Angesichts dieser Tatsache und aufgrund des besonderen Umstands, dass 2014 Wahlen zum Europäischen Parlament und ein institutioneller Übergang stattfinden, hält es die Kommission für angemessener, die Maßnahmen im Zusammenhang mit dem Europäischen Jahr der Bürgerinnen und Bürger 2013 auch 2014 fortzuführen. Das Europäische Jahr der Bürgerinnen und Bürger 2013 war ein Erfolg und viele dieser Maßnahmen sind wichtig für die demokratische Mitwirkung und die Einbindung der Bürger in die Gestaltung der EU-Politik.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012282/13
to the Commission
Heinz K. Becker (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Decision on the topic for the 2014 European Year

Each year, in line with tradition, the European Union chooses a topic of relevance to European people and focuses its external communication on this topic. By way of example, 2012 was denominated 'European Year for Active Aging and Solidarity between Generations' and 2013 was the 'European Year of the Citizens'.

The aim of the thematic years is to raise awareness among the population about the chosen subject matter, stimulate debate and draw attention to the issues. In order to meet this goal, however, not only do European and national public authorities and politicians need to show particular dedication, but as many citizens as possible also need to be involved, as do civil society organisations working in areas related to that year's theme.

In order for them to be able to contribute to and participate constructively in the various communication and information measures related to the European Year (e.g. events, publications, websites, etc.), sufficient time to make plans is required.

With this in mind, it is extremely problematic and utterly incomprehensible that the Commission, which has the sole(!) right of initiative in this area, has yet to make a proposal for the 2014 European Year.

In view of the fact that the proposal must then be adopted by Parliament and the Member States, it is now highly unlikely that a decision will be taken in time for the beginning of 2014. In practice, it is already too late for diverse communication campaigns to be organised by dedicated citizens and civil society organisations. The situation is even more exasperating since 2014 is a European election year and a consistent and well-prepared communications strategy is absolutely essential.

1. When does the Commission intend to finally submit its proposal for the 2014 European Year?

2. How does the Commission plan to compensate the civil society organisations concerned for the time lost as a result of the delay (and, therefore, lost fundraising time) by increasing the funding available under the proposal?

Answer given by Mr Barroso on behalf of the Commission
(3 December 2013)

In the preliminary discussions with interested stakeholders, different proposals for a European Year in 2014 were advanced. However, no widespread consensus for a specific theme emerged beyond the respective stakeholders advocating it. Under these circumstances, and given the specific nature of 2014 as a year of elections of the European Parliament and of institutional transition, the Commission considers that it would be more appropriate to continue actions related with the 2013 European Year of Citizens into 2014. The 2013 European year of citizens has been a success and many actions are relevant to participation in democracy and to inclusive participation in the shaping of EU policies.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012283/13
alla Commissione
Giancarlo Scottà (EFD)
(28 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Procedure di trattamento di liquidi e oggetti proibiti negli aeroporti

In risposta agli avvenimenti dell'11 settembre 2001, seguendo l'esempio degli Stati Uniti, l'Unione europea si è dotata di una serie di misure di sicurezza volte a prevenire eventuali minacce terroristiche o atti di violenza all'interno dei circuiti aeroportuali (regolamento (CE) n. 300/2008 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, dell'11 marzo 2008, che istituisce norme comuni per la sicurezza dell'aviazione civile).

Tra le disposizioni contenute nel regolamento ve ne sono in particolare alcune, riguardanti la gestione dei controlli sul contenuto dei bagagli, che elencano gli articoli (nella fattispecie liquidi, oggetti appuntiti o potenzialmente dannosi) il cui trasporto nel bagaglio a mano non è consentito.

Tuttavia, per quanto attiene a tale problematica, nella normativa europea, anche successiva al regolamento (CE) n. 300/2008, non vi è alcun riferimento alle modalità di gestione degli articoli sequestrati. In sostanza, le disposizioni dell'UE in materia si limitano a elencare gli oggetti o prodotti non ammessi a bordo dei velivoli senza specificarne la destinazione una volta ritirati ai passeggeri. La competenza degli organi di gestione della sicurezza aeroportuale, infatti, termina nel momento in cui è impedita l'introduzione di tali prodotti nella cosiddetta «area sterile». La loro successiva gestione (come indicato, limitatamente al caso italiano, dall'Ente Nazionale per l'Aviazione Civile) è di norma assicurata dagli stessi gestori aeroportuali, che ne curano la distruzione o la successiva cessione a organismi di volontariato oppure adottano procedure differenti, che tuttavia non sono chiaramente esplicitate e, soprattutto, differiscono per ogni aeroporto.

Alla luce di ciò, può la Commissione far sapere:

— se esistono, anche se non concordate ufficialmente a livello europeo, norme e procedure comuni per la gestione dei suddetti prodotti da parte degli organismi di sicurezza aeroportuale;

— se si intende, in risposta a quanto emerso, procedere ad armonizzare i sistemi di gestione dei summenzionati prodotti, con l'obiettivo di evitare inutili sprechi e garantire la piena trasparenza dei sistemi di sicurezza.

Risposta di Siim Kallas a nome della Commissione
(16 dicembre 2013)

Scopo delle norme comuni dell'UE per la sicurezza dell'aviazione civile è prevenire atti di interferenza illecita in questo campo. Non esistono norme o procedure comuni su come i servizi di sicurezza aeroportuali debbano trattare gli articoli vietati o cosa farne una volta identificati.

Nel rispetto del principio di sussidiarietà, la Commissione ritiene che gli Stati membri siano nella posizione ideale per decidere cosa fare degli articoli vietati e a chi affidare questo compito e non giudica pertanto necessario armonizzare questo aspetto.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012283/13
to the Commission
Giancarlo Scottà (EFD)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Procedures for dealing with liquids and prohibited items at airports

In the wake of the events of 11 September 2001, the European Union, following the United States' example, adopted a series of security measures to prevent any terrorist threats or acts of violence in airports (Regulation (EC) No 300/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation security).

In particular, the regulation contains provisions on how luggage checks are to be conducted, listing the items (namely, liquids, sharp or potentially dangerous items) which cannot be carried in hand luggage.

However, in regard to this issue, European legislation, even after Regulation (EC) No 300/2008, makes absolutely no mention of the procedures for dealing with confiscated items. Essentially, EU provisions on the issue merely list the items or products that are not permitted on board aircraft, without specifying what happens to them after they have been taken off passengers. The responsibility of airport security ends when these products are stopped from entering the 'sterile area'. What happens to them next (as established, in the case of Italy, by the National Civil Aviation Authority) is usually up to airport operators themselves, which destroy them or subsequently give them to volunteer organisations, or deal with them according to different procedures. Those procedures, however, are not clearly defined and, above all, differ from one airport to the next.

— Are there any common rules and procedures, even if not officially agreed at EU level, for how airport security should deal with the aforementioned products?

— In response to what has come to light, does the Commission plan to harmonise the systems for dealing with aforementioned products, with the aim of avoiding needless waste and ensuring that security systems are totally transparent?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(16 December 2013)

The EU Aviation Security common rules seek to protect civil aviation from acts of unlawful interference. There are no common rules or procedures for how airport security should treat prohibited articles or react once they have been identified.

In line with the subsidarity principle the Commission is of the opinion that Member States are best placed to decide how prohibited articles should be subsequently treated and by whom. The Commission therefore does not see the need to harmonise this.

(българска версия)

Въпрос с искане за писмен отговор E-012284/13
до Комисията
Mariya Gabriel (PPE)
(28 октомври 2013 г.)

Относно: Тютюнопроизводството в новата ОСП

Тютюнопроизводството не получи подкрепа по време на преговорите по новата ОСП — той е сред секторите, изключени от директните плащания и от обвързано с производството подпомагане. В моята страна, България, тютюнопроизводството е основна заетост в много селски полупланински райони, където има ограничени икономически алтернативи или такива изобщо липсват. В същото време някои европейски региони като Умбрия и Кампания са успели да предоставят европейско подпомагане на тютюнопроизводителите си. Те получават агроекологични плащания, като мерките, които прилагат, са свързани с поддържане на земята в добро състояние — напояване, борба с плевелите, намаляване на азотните торове и др.

В тази връзка какви са според ЕК възможностите за подпомагане на сектора на тютюнопроизводство в новата ОСП?

По-конкретно какви са възможностите за подпомагане на тютюнопроизводството чрез агроекологични плащания по втори стълб в новата ОСП?

Може ли ЕК да даде пример за страни, които използват мерки на национално ниво за подпомагане на сектора на тютюнопроизводство и какви?

Отговор, даден от г-н Чолош от името на Комисията
(3 януари 2014 г.)

Производството на суров тютюн е напълно интегрирано в инструментите на общата селскостопанска политика. Тютюнопроизводителите могат да получават основно плащане, както и плащане за екологизиране.

С новия Регламент за единната обща организация на пазара стопаните ще имат по-големи възможности да си осигурят по-силна позиция във веригата за доставки, като учредят организации на производителите и междубраншови организации, признати от държавите членки.

В рамките на политиката за развитие на селските райони се предвиждат мерки, които държавите членки могат да прилагат за преструктуриране или диверсифициране на земеделските стопанства и за подкрепа на земеделски практики, благоприятни за околната среда. Тютюнопроизводителите могат да получат подкрепа и по агроекологични мерки, която се изчислява въз основа на загубата на доходи и допълнителните разходи, свързани с изпълнението на поетите задължения.

През 2013 г. Комисията разреши на четири държави членки, които прилагат схемата за единно плащане на площ, да изплатят на тютюнопроизводителите национални помощи, необвързани с производството: България (80,6 млн. евро), Унгария (14,9 млн. евро), Полша (48,1 млн. евро) и Румъния (7,2 млн. евро). В условията на новата обща селскостопанска политика тези държави членки могат да решат да продължат да предоставят такава помощ при същите условия, но в по-малък размер.

Понастоящем в Полша се прилага и схема за помощи под формата на субсидии за застрахователни премии в полза на тютюнопроизводството. В сектора на тютюнопроизводството обаче може да се ползват и национални помощи, които държавите членки предоставят по по-общи схеми за помощ. Държавите членки могат също така да отпускат помощи *de minimis* в сектора на тютюнопроизводството в съответствие с Регламент (ЕО) № 1535/2007 [1].

[1] ОВ L 337, 21.12.2007 г.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012284/13
to the Commission
Mariya Gabriel (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Tobacco growing under the new CAP

No support was provided for tobacco growing in the negotiations on the new CAP and it is one of the sectors not in receipt of direct payments or coupled support. Tobacco growing is a staple activity in many semi-mountainous regions of Bulgaria, where alternative economic opportunities are limited or simply do not exist. At the same time, some European regions, such as Umbria and Campania, have managed to provide EU support to their tobacco producers. They receive agri-environment payments as the measures they implement are connected with keeping farmland in good condition, irrigation, weed prevention and reduced use of nitrogen fertilisers, etc.

Can the Commission state, in this connection, what possibilities for support exist for the tobacco growing sector under the new CAP?

More specifically, what possibilities for support for tobacco growing are there through agri-environment payments under the second pillar of the new CAP?

Can the Commission give examples of countries that employ national-level measures for support to the tobacco sector, and state which these are?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

The production of raw tobacco is fully integrated into the general agricultural policy instruments. Farmers producing tobacco may receive the basic payment as well as the greening payment.

The new single CMO regulation will provide greater opportunities for farmers to strengthen their position in the supply chain through the formation of producer and inter-branch organisations to be recognised by Member States.

The rural development policy provides for measures which Member States can apply to restructure or diversify the agricultural holdings and to support farming practices favourable for the environment. Tobacco producers may receive the agri-environmental support, determined on the basis of the loss of income and additional costs due to the commitments made.

In 2013 the Commission has authorised decoupled national aids to be paid to tobacco producers in 4 Member States applying the single area payment scheme: Bulgaria (EUR 80.6 million, Hungary (EUR 14.9 million), Poland (EUR 48.1 million), Romania (EUR 7.2 million). Under the new CAP these Member States may decide to continue to grant this aid under the same conditions but with decreasing levels.

Poland is also currently applying an aid scheme in the form of insurance premium subsidies in favour of the tobacco sector. However, the tobacco sector might benefit from national aid granted by Member States under more general aid schemes. Member States may also grant '*de minimis*' aid to the tobacco sector in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1535/2007 ([1]).

([1]) OJ L 337, 21.12.2007.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012285/13
to the Commission
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Dual taxation of income

In its 2010 communication entitled 'Removing cross-border tax obstacles for EU citizens' (COM/2010/769), the Commission identified the most pressing cross-border tax problems that citizens faced, including that of double taxation on income and capital. Currently, double taxation of citizens' income is covered by a complex web of bilateral treaties amongst the Member States.

In light of this situation, what progress has the Commission made with regard to overcoming dual taxation?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(13 December 2013)

Direct taxation mainly falls under the competence of the EU Member States and the Commission is therefore confined to act within the boundaries of the powers which the Member States confer on it. Hence the Commission can make proposals for EU legislation to improve the functioning of the internal market but the proposals will only become law if EU Member States unanimously agree to them. In the absence of existing EU legislation, Member States are free to design their direct tax systems and procedures as they choose as long as their rules are not discriminatory or otherwise contrary to the Treaties. There is no provision in the EU Treaties concerning tax treaties and double taxation is not in itself considered to be contrary to EC law.

Within this framework, the Commission is currently examining possible solutions to double taxation problems that are not currently resolved by bilateral tax treaties. Following the communication to which the Honourable Member refers, the Commission identified possible solutions to double taxation in 2011 ([1]) — including a Member States' Forum, a code of conduct or a binding arbitration mechanism — which it is currently researching in detail. Furthermore, the Commission addressed a recommendation to Member States on solutions to double taxation of inheritances in 2011 ([2]).

The Commission is also studying solutions to other tax obstacles to cross-border activity of EU citizens that it identified in the 2010 Communication, such as complicated information and forms and the absence of single contact points in tax administrations. It will propose appropriate action when it has completed its research.

([1]) COM(2011) 712.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/taxation/personal_tax/inheritance/c_2011_8819 _en.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012286/13
to the Commission
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Pollution from the Compañía Española De Petróleos (CEPSA) oil refinery

Following parliamentary questions E-000968/2011 and E-000834/2011 the Commission will be aware of the CEPSA oil refinery in San Roque, Spain. In response to these questions, the Commission noted that the operator has been investing in improvements to minimise or prevent pollution. More than two years on, pollution levels in the area are still high.

1. Does the Commission have any update on the progress being made at the site?

2. Is it satisfied that air emissions from the refinery meet EU standards?

3. Specifically, is it aware that levels of nickel pollution in the area are higher than normal?

4. What further measures does the Commission propose for working with the relevant national authorities to ensure air pollution from this site is further reduced?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(11 December 2013)

1. The Commission has not received updated information on the CEPSA oil refinery. The data on the annual emissions of pollutants are publicly available in E-PRTR ([1]).

2. Based on earlier exchanges with the Spanish authorities in 2010, the Commission has not identified any breach of the applicable EC law (in particular of the IPPC Directive 2008/1/EC ([2])).

3. As from 31 December 2012, Member States had to take all necessary measures not entailing disproportionate costs to ensure that concentrations of pollutants, including nickel, covered by non-binding target values, do not exceed those values ([3]). In the latest available yearly questionnaire related to 2012, Spain reported an exceedance of the target value of 20 ng/m^3 for nickel in ambient air ([4]) in the zone where the plant is located ([5]).

4. Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions ([6]) replaces the IPPC Directive for existing installations as from 7 January 2014. It requires permitting authorities to use the Best Available Techniques (BAT) conclusions as the reference for setting the permit conditions. Such conclusions for the refining of mineral oil and gas are planned for adoption in 2014. Within four years after their publication, the national authorities have to ensure that all permits for refineries are updated accordingly and that the installations comply with those permit conditions.

([1]) http://prtr.ec.europa.eu, the latest data concern the year 2011.
([2]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2008.
([3]) According to Article 3 of Directive 2004/107/EC.
([4]) One of the two monitoring stations measures 21 ng/m3, while the other measured 17 ng/m3.
([5]) ES0104 'Zona Industrial de Bahã a de Algeciras'.
([6]) OJ L 334, 17.12.2010.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012287/13
to the Commission
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Pollution on Gibraltar's Western Beach

Western Beach in north Gibraltar borders Spain and continues to suffer from poor water quality. In Parliamentary Question E-9298/2010, the Commission's attention was drawn to the pollution there and to the fact that increased water contamination was the result of a redirected storm drain from the Spanish border town of La Linea. In the Commission's response, it expressed its willingness to facilitate the resolution of the problem.

1. In light of this, has the Commission sought a commitment from Spain to end such discharges along the coast in question?

2. Is the Commission aware of continued sewage discharges from La Linea?

3. What further action does the Commission intend to take to encourage Spain to meet its obligation to end this kind of effluent discharge, as required under Union law?

Question for written answer E-012288/13
to the Commission
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Reports of pollution in the Bay of Gibraltar

Could the Commission state what specific complaints it has received or been made aware of since January 2011 regarding air and bathing water pollution in the Bay of Gibraltar (often referred to in Spain as the Bahía de Algeciras)?

Could the Commission state what action it has taken as a result of these complaints?

Joint answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(6 January 2014)

A complaint has been registered on pollution at the Western Beach (nr CHAP (2011)916). In addition, the Parliament accepted a petition regarding bathing water quality at the Western Beach (nr 258/2011).

Following the complaint and the petition, the Commission has requested information from Spain on the water pollution at the Western Beach. According to the information provided by the Spanish authorities in the context of the abovementioned investigation, the problems of the sewage systems that could influence the quality status of the beach concerned, including discharges as those mentioned by the Honourable Member, have been tackled.

In October 2013, the Commission requested updated information on these issues including data from this year's bathing water season from Spain. No information has been received yet by the Commission.

Moreover, the Commission has asked the United Kingdom to provide information on other possible causes of the pollution at the beach concerned.

The Commission would also note that it has raised its concerns on the lack of a treatment system for waste water in Gibraltar in a letter of formal notice addressed to the United Kingdom, issued on 20/06/2013.

Once Spain and the United Kingdom have replied, the Commission will be in a position to decide on how to proceed.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012289/13
adresată Comisiei
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(28 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: E-sănătate, inegalități în materie de sănătate și decalajul digital

În comunicarea sa din 2012 referitor la planul de acțiune privind e-sănătatea 2012-2020, Comisia stabilește eventualele beneficii în domeniul sănătății care ar putea fi generate de serviciile de îngrijire medicală mai inteligente, mai sigure și orientate spre pacient prestate prin dezvoltarea e-sănătății.

Comunicarea enumeră, de asemenea, principalele obstacole în calea funcționării e-sănătății, inclusiv diferențele regionale privind accesul la serviciile TIC și accesul limitat în zonele defavorizate. Inegalitățile în materie de sănătate vor apărea dacă așa-numitul decalaj digital nu este abordat în mod corespunzător ([1]).

În Acțiunea 48 din Agenda digitală 2020, Comisia subliniază faptul că statele membre trebuie să folosească fondurile structurale și fondurile de dezvoltare rurală pentru a dezvolta conexiuni de mare viteză la internet. De asemenea, Comisia se angajează „să asigure o monitorizare a implementării în statele membre în care există o programare substanțială de fonduri UE pentru TIC și/sau în care absorbția fondurilor este cea mai slabă, în special, în ceea ce privește Bulgaria, Italia, Polonia, România și Spania” ([2]).

Ce măsuri specifice ia Comisia pentru a îmbunătății ratele de absorbție în România pentru a reduce decalajul digital și inegalitățile provocate de acesta, inclusiv inegalitățile în materie de sănătate care vor apărea dacă TIC nu se dezvoltă suficient pentru a sprijini funcționarea e-sănătății?

Răspuns dat de dl Hahn în numele Comisiei
(19 decembrie 2013)

În perioada 2007-2013, Fondul European de Dezvoltare Regională (FEDER) contribuie cu aproape 400 de milioane EUR la impulsionarea utilizării TIC în România. FEDER ajută IMM-urile să aibă acces la internet și să implementeze aplicațiile economiei digitale, astfel devenind mai competitive; FEDER sprijină, de asemenea, sectorul public în dezvoltarea și creșterea eficienței serviciilor publice electronice în beneficiul întreprinderilor și al cetățenilor.

Ca măsură orizontală, proiectul RO-net sprijină instalarea unei rețele în bandă largă în zonele insuficient deservite, reducând astfel disparitățile dintre regiunile urbane și cele rurale. În mod specific, FEDER sprijină modernizarea sistemului medical din România prin: creșterea gradului de utilizare a TIC în spitale și crearea dosarelor electronice ale pacienților, facilitarea decontării electronice a serviciilor medicale de către societățile de asigurări de sănătate și încurajarea utilizării TIC de către medicii generaliști, precum și conectarea acestora din urmă la sistemele informatice publice din sectorul sănătății.

În România, implementarea generală a programelor este afectată în mod negativ de capacitatea administrativă redusă a autorităților responsabile de gestionare, precum și de slaba pregătire a proiectelor de către beneficiari. Pentru a încuraja progresul, Comisia a coordonat o serie de inițiative. Instituțiile financiare internaționale au fost invitate să contribuie la eforturile autorităților publice pentru a accelera implementarea programelor și a proiectelor. În același timp, Comisia a sprijinit guvernul României în dezvoltarea „Planului prioritar de acțiune pentru sporirea capacității de absorbție a fondurilor structurale și de coeziune”, care va servi drept foaie de parcurs pe termen scurt și mediu pentru a îmbunătăți funcționarea sistemului de fonduri structurale și pentru a stimula absorbția fondurilor.

([1]) https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/ehealth-action-plan-2012-2020-innovative-healthcare-21st-century
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/pillar-iv-fast-and-ultra-fast-internet-access/action-48-use-structural-funds-finance-roll-out-high

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012289/13
to the Commission
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: E-Health, health inequalities and the digital divide

In its communication of 2012 on the e-Health Action Plan 2012-2020, the Commission sets out the potential health benefits which could be derived from smarter, safer and patient- centred health services delivered through the development of e-Health.

The communication also lists the main barriers to the deployment of eHealth, including regional differences in accessing ICT services and limited access in deprived areas. Health inequalities will result if the so-called 'digital divide' is not properly addressed ([1]).

In Action 48 of the Digital Agenda 2020, the Commission stresses the need for Member States to make use of the Structural Funds and rural development funds in order to develop high-speed Internet connections. The Commission also makes a commitment to 'ensure a follow up of the implementation to those Member States where there is a substantial programming of EU funds on ICT and/or where absorption is weakest and particularly with respect to Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain' ([2]).

What specific action is the Commission taking to improve absorption rates in Romania, in order to reduce the digital divide and the inequalities it causes, including the health inequalities which will result if ICT development is not sufficient to support the deployment of e-Health?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

In the 2007-2013 period, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) contributes almost EUR 400 million to increasing the use of ICT in Romania. The ERDF supports SMEs to connect to the Internet and implement e-economy applications and thus improve their competitiveness; the ERDF also assists the public sector to develop and increase the efficiency of electronic public services for the benefit of companies and citizens.

As a horizontal measure, the RO-net project supports the setup of the broadband network in under-served areas thus reducing disparities between urban and rural regions. Specifically, the ERDF supports the modernisation of the medical system in Romania: increasing the use of the ICT in hospitals and the creation of electronic patient records, facilitating electronic discounts with health insurance companies and encouraging ICT use by general practitioners and their interconnection to public medical IT systems.

In Romania, the overall implementation of the programmes suffers from weak administrative capacity in the managing authorities and weak preparation of projects by beneficiaries. To challenge the low progress, the Commission has coordinated several initiatives. International financial institutions were invited to reinforce the efforts of public authorities to accelerate programme and project implementation. At the same time, the Commission has supported the Romanian Government to develop the 'Priority action plan to increase the capacity to absorb structural and cohesion funds' as a short- and medium-term roadmap to improve the functioning of the Structural Funds system and to boost the absorption of funds.

([1]) https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/ehealth-action-plan-2012-2020-innovative-healthcare-21st-century

([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/pillar-iv-fast-and-ultra-fast-Internet-access/action-48-use-structural-funds-finance-roll-out-high

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012292/13
à la Commission
Dominique Riquet (PPE)
(28 octobre 2013)

Objet: Bilan de l'expérience acquise en matière d'inspection-filtrage des Liquides, Aérosols et Gels (LAG)

Le règlement d'exécution (UE) n° 246/2013 de la Commission du 19 mars 2013 a modifié le règlement (UE) n° 185/2010 de manière à soumettre à l'inspection-filtrage, à compter du 31 janvier 2014, les liquides, aérosols et gels (LAG) achetés dans un aéroport ou à bord d'un aéronef et contenus dans un sac à témoin d'intégrité, ainsi que les LAG destinés à être utilisés au cours du voyage à des fins médicales ou répondant à un besoin diététique spécial, y compris les aliments pour bébé (article 4.1.2.2 du règlement (UE) n° 185/2010 modifié).

Le considérant n° 4 du règlement (UE) n° 246/2013 indique que «*la Commission est attachée à la suppression totale des restrictions portant sur l'emport des LAG. Sur la base de l'expérience acquise dans la mise en œuvre de l'inspection-filtrage à partir de janvier 2014, la Commission devrait réexaminer la situation à la fin de 2014 et définir, en étroite collaboration avec toutes les parties concernées, une ou plusieurs étapes supplémentaires pour réaliser cet objectif, si possible dans un délai de deux ans après la première étape*».

Comment et à quel moment le Parlement européen sera-t-il associé à la prise de décision dans ce dossier? Comment et sur quelle période la Commission européenne envisage-t-elle d'établir le bilan de l'expérience acquise à partir de janvier 2014?

Ce bilan indiquera-t-il le coût d'une mesure qui n'apporte que peu de bénéfice aux passagers puisque ceux-ci se verront contrôler des LAG qui ne l'étaient pas jusqu'à présent (médicaments, aliments pour bébé) et encore moins à l'économie européenne puisque les produits hors-taxes qui seront, après le 31 janvier 2014, acceptés en Europe après contrôle, auront été achetés hors de l'Union européenne?

Y a-t-il un lien entre les différentes étapes mentionnées? Le bilan d'une première étape permet-il de conclure à la faisabilité d'une étape ultérieure? Quelles sont les étapes supplémentaires envisagées?

Les technologies existantes permettent-elles d'envisager une libéralisation totale de l'emport des LAG à l'horizon 2016?

Les aéroports auront-ils l'opportunité d'acheter des technologies européennes? Dans le cas inverse, ne faudrait-il pas envisager de débloquer des fonds de recherche européens?

Réponse donnée par M. Kallas au nom de la Commission
(9 décembre 2013)

Comme le rappelle l'Honorable Parlementaire, le considérant n°4 du règlement d'exécution (UE) n° 246/2013 de la Commission indique que la Commission devrait réexaminer la situation à la fin de 2014. La Commission a lancé une étude visant à déterminer les effets de la première phase qui démarre en janvier 2014. Cette étude sera complétée par des échanges avec toutes les parties prenantes durant l'année 2014 afin d'évaluer l'incidence des diverses options et de convenir des prochaines étapes. Le Parlement européen sera associé à ce processus conformément aux procédures applicables. La Commission compte demeurer en contact étroit avec la commission des transports et du tourisme du PE pendant la phase de préparation,.

L'utilisation de technologies pour l'inspection/filtrage des liquides offre de meilleures garanties de sûreté et réduit la gêne pour les passagers. L'impact économique des mesures de sûreté fera partie des points abordés dans les consultations et dans le réexamen précités.

Les étapes sont liées. La suppression complète des restrictions fait peser un énorme risque opérationnel en raison de l'ampleur du changement. Une approche graduelle devrait permettre de faire face à tout effet potentiellement négatif sur le plan opérationnel tant pour les aéroports que pour les passagers. Une autre étape intermédiaire dans la levée des restrictions pourrait consister à autoriser les bouteilles claires, celles contenant de l'eau potable par exemple.

Même si la technologie est prête du point de vue de la sûreté, son incidence sur le plan opérationnel doit être évaluée avant que les restrictions ne puissent être assouplies. Si les conditions s'y prêtent, les restrictions pourront être remplacées par une inspection/filtrage d'ici la fin de 2016.

La plupart des constructeurs sont basés ou cotés en bourse en Europe. Le programme Horizon 2020 prévoit un appel à propositions de recherche dans les technologies innovantes concernant la sûreté aérienne.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012292/13
to the Commission
Dominique Riquet (PPE)
(28 October 2013)

Subject: Review of experience gained regarding the screening of Liquids, Aerosols and Gels (LAGs)

The Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 246/2013 of 19 March 2013 amended Regulation (EU) No 185/2010 by requiring that, as of 31 January 2014, any liquids, aerosols or gels (LAGs) purchased in an airport or on board an aircraft and contained in a security tamper-evident bag, as well as LAGs intended for use during the journey for medical purposes or specific dietary needs (including baby food), will be subject to screening (Article 4.1.2.2 of Regulation (EU) No 185/2010 amended).

Recital No 4 of Regulation (EU) No 246/2013 states that 'the Commission is committed to the full lifting of restrictions on the carriage of LAGs. On the basis of the experience gained from the implementation of screening as of January 2014, the Commission should review the situation by the end of 2014 and define, in close cooperation with all parties concerned, one or more next steps to reach this objective, if possible within the next two years following the first step.'

How and when will Parliament be involved in making a decision on this matter? How and over what period does the Commission plan to review the experience gained from January 2014?

Will this review indicate the cost of a measure that offers little benefit to passengers, who will find themselves subject to checks on LAGs that were not required up until now (such as on medication and baby food), and even less benefit to the European economy, as, after 31 January 2014, duty-free products that are accepted in Europe after security checks will have to be purchased outside of the EU?

Is there a link between the various steps mentioned? Will the review of the first step enable us to draw conclusions about the feasibility of a later step? What additional steps are envisaged?

Are existing technologies sufficient to enable us to consider a complete relaxation of restrictions on the carriage of LAGs by 2016?

Will airports have the opportunity to purchase European technologies? If not, should we not be planning the release of EU research funds?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(9 December 2013)

As the Honourable Member points out, the fourth recital of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 246/2013 states that the Commission should review the situation by the end of 2014. The Commission has initiated a study to determine the effects of the first phase starting in January 2014. This will be supplemented by exchanges with all stakeholders throughout 2014 to assess the impact of options and agree the next steps. The European Parliament will be involved in accordance with the applicable procedures. The Commission expects to remain in close contact with the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism during the preparation phase.

The use of technology to screen liquids offers a better security outcome and better passenger facilitation. The economic impact of security measures will form part of the aforementioned consultation and review.

The steps are linked. The complete removal of restrictions poses a considerable operational risk due to the scale of the change. A phased approach should allow any potentially negative operational impact on either airports or passengers to be managed. A further intermediate step to lifting the restrictions may comprise permitting clear bottles, such as drinking water.

Technology may be ready from a security perspective, but the operational impact needs to be assessed before restrictions are relaxed. If the conditions are suitable, the restrictions may be replaced by screening by the end of 2016.

Most of the manufacturers are listed or based in Europe. Horizon2020 includes a call for research into innovative technologies for aviation security.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012300/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Δαπάνες διάσωσης χωρών της Ευρωζώνης που βρίσκονται σε Μνημόνιο

Σύμφωνα με δημοσιογραφικές πληροφορίες (Εφημερίδα ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ 27/10/2013), παρουσιάζεται μεγάλη ανομοιογένεια όσον αφορά τη συμβολή κρατών μελών της Ευρωζώνης στη διάσωση των οικονομιών κρατών μελών που βρίσκονται σε καθεστώς Μνημονίου. Το πιο εκπληκτικό είναι ότι οι χώρες της Μεσογείου και της περιφέρειας, που αντιμετωπίζουν μεγάλες οικονομικές δυσκολίες, εμφανίζονται να έχουν συμβάλει περισσότερο (ως ποσοστό του ΑΕΠ) σε σύγκριση με άλλες πιο ισχυρές και οικονομικά ευημερούσες χώρες. Χώρες όπως η Κύπρος, η Ισπανία, η Ιταλία και η Σλοβενία εμφανίζονται να έχουν συνεισφέρει πολύ ψηλότερο ποσοστό του ΑΕΠ σε σύγκριση με άλλες οικονομικά ισχυρές και ευημερούσες χώρες, όπως η Γερμανία, η Αυστρία και η Ολλανδία.

Καλείται η Επιτροπή να απαντήσει στα εξής ερωτήματα:

1. Με βάση επίσημα στοιχεία που κατέχει η Επιτροπή, αληθεύει ο πιο πάνω ισχυρισμός;

2. Θα μπορούσε η Επιτροπή να με εφοδιάσει με επίσημα συγκριτικά στοιχεία όσον αφορά τη συνεισφορά των κρατών μελών της Ευρωζώνης στη διάσωση χωρών του Μνημονίου;

3. Αν ο πιο πάνω ισχυρισμός αληθεύει, θεωρεί η Επιτροπή ότι εγείρεται θέμα δικαιότερης κατανομής του κόστους διάσωσης χωρών του Μνημονίου;

4. Ποια μέτρα προτίθεται να πάρει προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση;

Απάντηση του κ. Rehn εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(6 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

1. Οι άμεσες ή έμμεσες κλείδες συνεισφοράς των κρατών μελών διαφέρουν σημαντικά ανάλογα με το χρησιμοποιούμενο μέσο στήριξης. Οι συνεισφορές που πραγματοποιούνται στο πλαίσιο του ΕΜΧΣ είναι σύμφωνες με την κλείδα που χρησιμοποιείται στον προϋπολογισμό της ΕΕ. Οι συνεισφορές στο πλαίσιο της δανειακής διευκόλυνσης για την Ελλάδα και το ΕΤΧΣ βασίζονται στην κλείδα της ΕΚΤ αλλά περιλαμβάνουν διάφορους μηχανισμούς εξισορρόπησης και μη συμμετοχής, ώστε να λαμβάνεται υπόψη η αγοραία κατάσταση του οικείου κράτους μέλους. Οι ενδεχόμενες συνεισφορές στο πλαίσιο του ΕΜΣ βασίζονται σε προσαρμοσμένη κλείδα της ΕΚΤ στην οποία έχουν ενσωματωθεί διορθώσεις για τα νέα κράτη μέλη το ΑΕΠ των οποίων είναι σημαντικά χαμηλότερο από τον μέσο όρο.

2. Βλ. παραρτήματα.

3. και 4. Είχαν ήδη ληφθεί μέτρα σε όλα τα μέσα στήριξης τα οποία επηρεάζουν άμεσα το χρέος των κρατών μελών (Δανειακή διευκόλυνση για την Ελλάδα και ΕΤΧΣ) ώστε να ληφθεί υπόψη η θέση των συνεισφερόντων κρατών που βρίσκονταν σε επισφαλή οικονομική κατάσταση κατά τον χρόνο χρησιμοποίησης του εκάστοτε μέσου στήριξης. Η χρηματοδοτική συνδρομή που χορηγείται στο πλαίσιο του ΕΜΣ και του ΕΜΧΣ δεν επηρεάζει το χρέος των κρατών μελών (ίδια λογιστική μεταχείριση με την περίπτωση συνεισφορών σε διεθνή χρηματοπιστωτικά ιδρύματα).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012300/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Cost of rescuing euro area countries with Memorandum status

According to newspaper reports (*Kathimerini* newspaper, 27 October 2013), there is a massive disparity between the contributions made by Member States of the euro area in order to rescue the economies of Member States with Memorandum status. What is most surprising is that the Mediterranean and periphery countries, which are in huge economic difficulty, appear to have contributed more (as a percentage of GDP) than stronger countries with robust economies. Countries such as Cyprus, Spain, Italy and Slovenia appear to have contributed a much higher percentage of GDP than countries with strong and robust economies, such as Germany, Austria and the Netherlands.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Based on the official statistics held by the Commission, is the above claim true?

2. Could the Commission provide official comparative statistics on the contributions made by the Member States of the euro area in order to rescue countries with Memorandum status?

3. If the above claim is true, does it think that this raises the question of a fairer distribution of the cost of rescuing Memorandum countries?

4. What measures does it intend to take in this direction?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(6 December 2013)

1. The direct or indirect contributing keys of Member States vary substantially according to the instrument used. The contributions under the EFSM are in line with the EU budget key. The contributions under the Greek loan facility and the EFSF are based on the ECB key, but with various balancing and stepping out formula so as to take into account the market situation of the Member State concerned. The potential contributions under the ESM are based on an adjusted ECB key, corrected for the new Member States having a GDP significantly below the average.

2. See annexes.

3 and 4. Measures were already taken in all the instruments having a direct effect on the debt of Member States (GLF and EFSF) to take into account the situation of the contributing countries in a delicate financial situation when the instrument was used. Financial assistance granted under the ESM and EFSM has no effect on the debt of Member States (same accounting treatment as for contributions to international financial institutions).

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012301/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Ποσοστό επιβίωσης από καρδιοαναπνευστική αναζωογόνηση

400 000 ζωές χάνονται στην Ευρώπη ετήσια, λόγω καρδιακής ανακοπής, ενώ μπορούν να σωθούν, ετήσια, 100 000 από αυτές, αν έγκαιρα εντός των 3-4 πρώτων λεπτών δοθεί καρδιοαναπνευστική αναζωογόνηση και χρησιμοποιηθούν αυτόματοι εξωτερικοί απινιδωτές.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

Α. Διαθέτει συγκριτικά στοιχεία ανά χώρα μέλος της ΕΕ που να δείχνουν επακριβώς τον αριθμό των ευρωπαίων πολιτών που παθαίνουν καρδιακή ανακοπή και πόσοι από αυτούς επιβιώνουν μετά από καρδιοαναπνευστική αναζωογόνηση και χρήση απινιδωτών;

Β. Προτίθεται να εκδώσει μία σχετική οδηγία ώστε το μάθημα της καρδιοαναπνευστικής αναζωογόνησης και η χρήση απινιδωτών να διδάσκεται σε όλα τα σχολεία της ΕΕ από την ηλικία των 12 ετών και άνω, ώστε να αυξηθεί παντού το ποσοστό ενημέρωσης και, ως εκ τούτου, και το ποσοστό επιβίωσης, όπως ισχύει στην Ολλανδία και Γερμανία;

Γ. Τι προτίθεται να πράξει ώστε να προωθήσει την ιδέα για καθιέρωση μίας ετήσιας εβδομάδας αφιερωμένης στο θέμα της αντιμετώπισης της καρδιακής ανακοπής, σύμφωνα με την γραπτή δήλωση 11/2012 που ψήφισε το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο, με δεδομένο ότι από εφέτος καθιερώθηκε η 16η Οκτωβρίου ως ημέρα επανεκκίνησης της καρδιάς; Θα μπορούσε να καθιερώσει την 3η εβδομάδα του Οκτώβρη γι' αυτό τον σκοπό σε όλες τις χώρες μέλη;

Απάντηση του κ. Borg εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(17 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

Η Επιτροπή δεν διαθέτει στοιχεία σχετικά με το ποσοστό επιβίωσης από καρδιοαναπνευστική αναζωογόνηση. Ωστόσο, η έκθεση του ΟΟΣΑ «Health at a Glance Europe 2012» ([1]) (Η υγεία της Ευρώπης το 2012 με μια ματιά), η οποία χρηματοδοτήθηκε από την ΕΕ, παρέχει ορισμένα στοιχεία σχετικά με την ενδονοσοκομειακή θνησιμότητα ύστερα από οξύ έμφραγμα του μυοκαρδίου, καθώς και την ενδονοσοκομειακή θνησιμότητα ύστερα από εγκεφαλικό επεισόδιο στο κεφάλαιο για την ποιότητα της περίθαλψης.

Η Επιτροπή δεν προτίθεται να εκδώσει οδηγία της ΕΕ που να απαιτεί από όλους τους μαθητές ηλικίας 12 ετών και άνω να εκπαιδευτούν στην καρδιοαναπνευστική αναζωογόνηση και στη χρήση απινιδωτή, καθώς το εν λόγω ζήτημα εμπίπτει στην αποκλειστική αρμοδιότητα των κρατών μελών.

Η Επιτροπή υποστηρίζει τους γενικούς στόχους της γραπτής δήλωσης και επιδιώκει την ανάληψη δράσης στον τομέα αυτό στο πλαίσιο της περιορισμένης αρμοδιότητας που διαθέτει.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/reports/european/health_glance_2012_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012301/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: CPR survival rate

400 000 people a year in Europe die as a result of cardiac arrest. 100 000 of those lives could be saved if CPR is given and a defibrillator is used within the first 3 to 4 minutes.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

A. Does it have a breakdown by EU Member State of the exact number of European citizens who suffer cardiac arrest and how many of them survive following CPR and defibrillation?

B. Does it intend to issue a directive requiring all EU school pupils aged 12 and over to learn to administer CPR and use a defibrillator, in order to increase the level of knowledge and, as a result, the overall survival rate, as required in the Netherlands and Germany?

C. What does it intend to do to promote the idea of establishing a cardiac arrest awareness week, in keeping with written declaration 0011/2012 adopted by the European Parliament, especially as 16 October was established this year as European Restart a Heart Day? Perhaps the 3rd week in October could be used for that week in all the Member States?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

The Commission does not have data on cardio pulmonary resuscitation survival rate. However, the EU-funded report Health at a Glance Europe 2012 ([1]), by the OECD, provides some data on in-hospital mortality following acute myocardial infarction and in-hospital mortality following stroke in the chapter on quality of care.

The Commission does not intend to issue a directive requiring all EU school pupils aged 12 and over to learn to administer cardio pulmonary resuscitation and use a defibrillator, because this issue falls under the exclusive responsibility of the EU Member States.

The Commission supports the general aims of the Written Declaration, and pursues action in this area within its limited competence.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/reports/european/health_glance_2012_en.htm

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012302/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Προώθηση της γλωσσομάθειας των ευρωπαίων πολιτών

Η προώθηση της γλωσσομάθειας των ευρωπαίων πολιτών είναι σημαντικός στόχος της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.

Καλείται η Επιτροπή να απαντήσει:

α. Πώς συγκρίνονται οι Κύπριοι πολίτες σε σχέση με τον κοινοτικό μέσο όρο όσον αφορά την ικανότητα τους να μιλούν τουλάχιστον μία ξένη γλώσσα;

β. Ποιες είναι οι χώρες με τα καλύτερα αποτελέσματα και ποια μέτρα προτείνει για να σημειωθεί πρόοδος και στις υπόλοιπες χώρες της ΕΕ;

Απάντηση της κ. Βασιλείου εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(19 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

Σύμφωνα με μια ειδική έρευνα του Ευρωβαρόμετρου ([1]) του 2012 όσον αφορά τη γνώση ξένων γλωσσών όπως την αντιλαμβάνονται τα ίδια τα άτομα, το 76% των Κυπρίων μιλά τουλάχιστον μια ξένη γλώσσα, ενώ το αντίστοιχο μέσο ποσοστό της ΕΕ των 27 για το 2012 είναι 54%. Τα κράτη μέλη με τις καλύτερες επιδόσεις σύμφωνα με τα εν λόγω στατιστικά είναι το Λουξεμβούργο, η Λιθουανία, οι Κάτω Χώρες, η Μάλτα, η Σλοβενία, η Λετονία και η Σουηδία, με περισσότερο από το 90% των πληθυσμών τους να δηλώνει γνώση τουλάχιστον μιας ξένης γλώσσας. Όμως, η Δανία, η Εσθονία, η Σλοβακία και η Αυστρία έχουν καλύτερη επίδοση από την Κύπρο.

Τα τελευταία χρόνια, η Επιτροπή έχει καταβάλει προσπάθειες για την προώθηση της διδασκαλίας των ξένων γλωσσών και βοηθά τα κράτη μέλη που υστερούν στην γλωσσικές ικανότητες να σημειώσουν πρόοδο. Τον Νοέμβριο του 2012, η Επιτροπή ενέκρινε τη στρατηγική για τον «ανασχεδιασμό της εκπαίδευσης» στην οποία υπογράμμισε τη σημασία που έχει η γνώση ξένων γλωσσών για την απασχολησιμότητα. Επίσης, παρουσίασε στα κράτη μέλη κατευθυντήριες γραμμές σχετικά με τους παράγοντες που συμβάλλουν στην αποτελεσματική διδασκαλία των γλωσσών ([2]).

Επιπλέον, ο «ανασχεδιασμός της εκπαίδευσης» περιελάμβανε την πρόταση της Επιτροπής για την καθιέρωση ενός δείκτη αναφοράς της ΕΕ όσον αφορά τη γλωσσομάθεια. Ο δείκτης αναφοράς βασίζεται στην πρόταση της συνόδου κορυφής στη Βαρκελώνη το 2002 να παρέχεται στους Ευρωπαίους η δυνατότητα εκμάθησης δύο ξένων γλωσσών από πολύ μικρή ηλικία. Η πρόταση ορίζει ως στόχο ότι έως το 2020 στην ΕΕ τουλάχιστον το 50% των ατόμων ηλικίας 15 ετών θα πρέπει να έχει φτάσει το επίπεδο του ανεξάρτητου χρήστη στην πρώτη ξένη γλώσσα και τουλάχιστον το 75% των μαθητών της δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης θα πρέπει να μάθει δύο ξένες γλώσσες. Η Επιτροπή συζητά ήδη με επικείμενες Προεδρίες του Συμβουλίου τον προγραμματισμό των συζητήσεων για την υιοθέτηση ενός τέτοιου δείκτη αναφοράς.

([1]) Το τμήμα Ανάλυσης της Κοινής Γνώμης της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής διεξάγει σε τακτά χρονικά διαστήματα έρευνες με τίτλο «Οι Ευρωπαίοι και οι γλώσσες τους». Οι έρευνες αυτές παρέχουν μια εικόνα των γλωσσικών γνώσεων, της εκμάθησης γλωσσών και της στάσης απέναντι στη μετάφραση και στην ΕΕ. Μέχρι στιγμής, έχουν διεξαχθεί 3 έρευνες — το 2001, 2006 και το 2012. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες για την έρευνα του 2012, παρακαλώ επισκεφθείτε το: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_386_en.pdf

([2]) Περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τη στρατηγική αυτή στη διεύθυνση http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/rethinking/swd372_en.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012302/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Action to promote language learning among European citizens

Action to promote language learning among European citizens is an important objective of the European Union.

In view of this, will the Commission say:

(a) How do Cypriot citizens compare with the EU average in terms of their ability to speak at least one foreign language?

(b) Which countries have the best results and what measures does it propose to take in order to boost progress in the rest of the EU?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

According to a special Eurobarometer survey ([1]) from 2012 on self-reported knowledge of foreign language skills, 76% of Cypriot citizens speak at least one foreign language, whereas this figure was 54% for the EU-27 average in 2012. The best performing Member States according to the these statistics are Luxembourg, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Malta, Slovenia, Latvia and Sweden, with more than 90% of their populations reporting knowledge of at least one foreign language. However, Denmark, Estonia, Slovakia and Austria also score higher than Cyprus.

In recent years, the Commission has sought to promote the teaching of foreign languages and help Member States that lag behind in language competences to make progress. In November 2012, the Commission adopted the 'Rethinking Education' strategy, in which it highlighted the importance of foreign language skills for employability. It also presented guidance to Member States about the factors that contribute to effective language teaching. ([2])

In addition, 'Rethinking Education' included the Commission proposal for an EU benchmark on foreign languages proficiency. The benchmark is based on the 2002 Barcelona Summit proposal of providing Europeans with the opportunity of learning two foreign languages from an early age. The proposal sets as a goal that by 2020 at least 50% of 15-year-olds in the EU should attain the level of independent user in a first foreign language, and that at least 75% of pupils in lower secondary education should study two foreign languages. The Commission is currently discussing with upcoming Council Presidencies the scheduling of discussions with a view to adoption of such a benchmark.

([1]) Periodic surveys on 'Europeans and their languages' are carried out by the Public Opinion Analysis sector of the European Commission. They provide a picture of language knowledge, language learning, and attitudes to language and translation in the EU. So far, 3 surveys have been conducted — in 2001, 2006 and 2012. For more details about the 2012 survey, please refer to: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_386_en.pdf

([2]) More information about this strategy at http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/rethinking/swd372_en.pdf

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012303/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (PPE)
(29 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Η επιχειρηματικότητα στην ευρωπαϊκή εκπαίδευση

Η έκθεση ([1]) «Η φιλοσοφία της αποτυχίας για την Ευρώπη» του Stefan Theil, που δημοσιεύτηκε στο Institute of Public Affairs αναφέροντας συγκεκριμένα παραδείγματα από τα εκπαιδευτικά συστήματα της Γαλλίας και της Γερμανίας αλλά και στατιστικές έρευνες, καταλήγει στο συμπέρασμα ότι η επιχειρηματικότητα στην Ευρώπη αποθαρρύνεται από τα πρώτα στάδια της εκπαίδευσης. Την ίδια στιγμή, σε έρευνα του ευρωβαρόμετρου ([2]) η πλειονότητα των Ευρωπαίων (58%) που ποτέ δεν προχώρησε στην ίδρυση επιχείρησης δηλώνει πως ποτέ δεν σκέφτηκε να δραστηριοποιηθεί κατά αυτό τον τρόπο, ενώ 76% των ευρωπαίων πολιτών δεν συμμετείχε σε μάθημα ή δραστηριότητα για την επιχειρηματικότητα. Στην ίδια έρευνα διαπιστώνονται και οι σημαντικές ανισορροπίες μεταξύ των κρατών μελών όσον αφορά τη σχολική εκπαίδευση και το ενδιαφέρον για την επιχειρηματικότητα που προκάλεσε στους ερωτηθέντες. Η Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση στοχεύοντας στο ότι όλοι οι νέοι άνθρωποι θα πρέπει να επωφελούνται από τουλάχιστον μία πρακτική επιχειρηματική εμπειρία πριν από την ολοκλήρωση της εκπαίδευσης τους ([3]), τονίζει μέσω του «Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan» και της έκθεσης «Rethinking Education» τη σημασία ενσωμάτωσης της επιχειρηματικότητας σε όλα τα στάδια της εκπαίδευσης.

Δεδομένων των παραπάνω ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

α) Πώς αξιολογεί τα ευρήματα και τις αναφορές της έκθεσης του Institute of Public Affairs;

β) Πέραν των πρακτικών διασύνδεσης της επιχειρηματικότητας με την εκπαίδευση που αναφέρονται στην έκθεση «Οδηγός για εκπαιδευτές» σε ευρωπαϊκά εκπαιδευτικά ιδρύματα, διαθέτει στοιχεία για τις υστερήσεις των ευρωπαϊκών κρατών στη διασύνδεση της εκπαίδευσης και της επιχειρηματικότητας; Διαθέτει σχετικά στοιχεία για τις ανισορροπίες μεταξύ των κρατών μελών αλλά και τις υστερήσεις τους σε σχέση με τρίτες χώρες (τομείς, χώρες);

γ) Όσον αφορά στις απαραίτητες συνθήκες για τη στήριξη της επιχειρηματικής εκπαίδευσης που παρουσιάζονται στην προαναφερόμενη έκθεση, πού εμφανίζει τα μεγαλύτερα προβλήματα η Ευρώπη; Πώς επηρεάζονται οι πολιτικές στην εκπαίδευση από τις δημοσιονομικές προσπάθειες και πώς σκοπεύει να αντιδράσει η ΕΕ για να ενισχύσει τα εθνικά εκπαιδευτικά συστήματα;

Απάντηση της κ. Βασιλείου εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(9 Ιανουαρίου 2014)

Η έκθεση που αναφέρει ο κ. βουλευτής είναι μία από ορισμένες δημοσιεύσεις που ασχολούνται με παρόμοια θέματα. Σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, υπάρχει εστίαση στην ενσωμάτωση της εκπαίδευσης στην επιχειρηματικότητα σε όλες τις βαθμίδες της εκπαίδευσης, όπως επιβεβαιώνεται στην ανακοίνωση «Ανασχεδιασμός της εκπαίδευσης» ([4]) και στο σχέδιο δράσης «Επιχειρηματικότητα 2020» ([5]). Η πρόσφατη θεματική ομάδα εργασίας για την εκπαίδευση σε θέματα επιχειρηματικότητας προσδιόρισε πέντε βασικούς παράγοντες επιτυχίας: δημιουργία εκπαιδευτών, αποτελέσματα μάθησης, πρόγραμμα σπουδών, ενδιαφερόμενα μέρη και μέτρηση.

Έχει διαπιστωθεί σημαντική πρόοδος, μένουν, όμως, πολλά να γίνουν ακόμη. Η ετήσια έκθεση παρακολούθησης της εκπαίδευσης και της κατάρτισης ([6]) αναλύει βασικούς τομείς της πολιτικής για την εκπαίδευση και την κατάρτιση, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της εκπαίδευσης σε θέματα επιχειρηματικότητας. Η μελέτη Eurydice του 2012 ([7]) ανέλυσε ενέργειες και εφαρμογή πολιτικής, προσδιορίζοντας 22 χώρες της ΕΕ με στρατηγικές ή πρωτοβουλίες. Το Ευρωβαρόμετρο Flash του 2012 ([8]) παρέχει στατιστικές πληροφορίες για την ΕΕ και τις τρίτες χώρες. Επισημαίνει ότι, ενώ το 50% των πολιτών της ΕΕ συμφωνεί ότι το σχολείο τους βοήθησε να αναπτύξουν πρωτοβουλία και επιχειρηματική συμπεριφορά, υπάρχει εντυπωσιακό εύρος απαντήσεων μεταξύ των χωρών (από το 17% στο ΗΒ έως το 65% στην Πορτογαλία· και από το 15% στην Ιαπωνία στο 64% στη Βραζιλία).

([1]) http://www.ipa.org.au/library/publication/1210833458_document_60-1_theil.pdf
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_354_en.pdf
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/files/education/entredu-manual-fv_en.pdf
([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/rethinking_en.htm
([5]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0795:FIN:en:PDF
([6]) http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/progress_en.htm
([7]) http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/135EN.pdf
([8]) http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_354_en.pdf

Η σημασία των επενδύσεων στην εκπαίδευση για την υποστήριξη της οικονομικής ανάπτυξης υπογραμμίστηκε στον «Ανασχεδιασμό της εκπαίδευσης». Ως συνέχεια, η Επιτροπή διοργάνωσε ένα πρώτο εργαστήριο για την ανάλυση κόστους-οφέλους και την αποτελεσματικότητα από πλευράς κόστους στη Στοκχόλμη τον Νοέμβριο του 2013, ενώ, το 2014, μια νέα υποομάδα της μόνιμης ομάδας της ΕΕ για τους δείκτες και τα σημεία αναφοράς θα ασχοληθεί επίσης με τις επενδύσεις στην εκπαίδευση.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012303/13
to the Commission
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (PPE)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Entrepreneurship in European education

Stefan Theil's report 'Europe's Philosophy of Failure' ([1]), published by the Institute of Public Affairs, arrives at the conclusion, based on specific examples from the French and German educational systems and statistical surveys, that entrepreneurship is being stifled in Europe from the very first stages of education. At the same time, according to a Eurobarometer survey ([2]), the majority of Europeans who have never started a business (58%) said that it had never crossed their mind to do so and 76% of European citizens have never taken part in a course or activity about entrepreneurship. The same survey identified serious inequalities between the Member States in terms of school education and the interest it gave interviewees in becoming entrepreneurs. The European Union stresses the importance of including entrepreneurship at all levels of education in its Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan and 'Rethinking Education' report, in line with its objective that all young people should benefit from at least one business internship before completing their education ([3]).

In view of this, will the Commission say:

(a) What is its assessment of the findings and conclusions of the Institute of Public Affairs report?

(b) Apart from the practical learning and enterprise links in European education institutions referred to in the report 'A Guide for Educators', does it have data on which European states are lagging behind in terms of learning and enterprise links? Does it have data on inequalities between the Member States and the degree to which they are lagging behind third countries (sectors, countries)?

(c) What are Europe's biggest problems in terms of the preconditions to support for business education presented in the aforementioned report? How are education policies being affected by fiscal efforts and how does the EU intend to react in order to improve national educational systems?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(9 January 2014)

The report mentioned by the honourable member is one of a number of publications addressing similar topics. At European level, there is a focus on embedding entrepreneurship education at all stages of education, as confirmed in the Rethinking Education Communication ([4]) and the Entrepreneurship2020 Action Plan ([5]). The recent Thematic Working Group on Entrepreneurship Education identified five key success factors: educator development, learning outcomes, curriculum, stakeholders and measurement.

Significant progress can be seen, but there is still much work to be done. The annual Education and Training Monitor ([6]) analyses key areas of education and training policy, including entrepreneurship education. The 2012 Eurydice study ([7]) analysed policy inputs and implementation, identifying 22 EU countries with strategies or initiatives. The 2012 Flash Eurobarometer ([8]) gives statistical insight into EU and third countries. It highlights that, while 50% of EU citizens agreed that school helped them develop initiative and entrepreneurial attitude, there is a striking range of responses among countries (from 17% in the UK to 65% in Portugal; and from 15% in Japan to 64% in Brazil).

The importance of investment in education to support economic growth was highlighted in Rethinking Education. As follow up, the Commission organised a first workshop on Cost-Benefit Analysis and Cost Effectiveness in Stockholm in November 2013, while in 2014 a new sub group of the EU Standing Group on Indicators and Benchmarks will also address investment in education.

([1]) http://www.ipa.org.au/library/publication/1210833458_document_60-1_theil.pdf
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_354_en.pdf
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/files/education/entredu-manual-fv_en.pdf
([4]) http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/rethinking_en.htm
([5]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0795:FIN:en:PDF
([6]) http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/progress_en.htm
([7]) http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/135EN.pdf
([8]) http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_354_en.pdf

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012304/13
alla Commissione
Matteo Salvini (EFD)
(29 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Richiesta di misure di sostegno nei confronti di 10 mila lavoratori dell'azienda Alcatel Lucent, che rischiano di essere licenziati

La compagnia Alcatel Lucent, con sede principale a Parigi, produce hardware e software per le telecomunicazioni. In Italia, gli Headquarters e i principali laboratori sono localizzati a Vimercate, in provincia di Monza e Brianza; altri centri di ricerca e sviluppo sono situati a Battipaglia e a Rieti, mentre a Trieste è attivo uno stabilimento di produzione.

Il nome attuale della compagnia si deve alla fusione dei gruppi Alcatel e Lucent Technologies, avvenuta nel 2006.

La compagnia, che ha già ceduto diversi suoi stabilimenti ad altre aziende, ha ora annunciato di voler attuare un piano di ristrutturazione che la renda più competitiva; parte di questo piano comprende il licenziamento di 10 mila lavoratori, 600 solo a Vimercate.

Pertanto chiedo alla Commissione: è a conoscenza di finanziamenti dell'UE, diretti o indiretti, erogati a favore di questa multinazionale?

Per quanto concerne il diritto d'informazione dei lavoratori nelle imprese con più di 50 dipendenti, come intende agire la Commissione per evitare che gli impiegati di tali imprese si trovino, senza alcun preavviso, improvvisamente disoccupati?

Intende la Commissione introdurre, in occasione della prossima programmazione e della revisione del FSE, un Fondo di emergenza destinato a sostenere lavoratori come quelli dell'«Alcatel Lucent»?

Intende creare dei canali di condivisione tra le istituzioni locali/regionali e le multinazionali sulle loro strategie industriali per i diversi territori?

Risposta di László Andor a nome della Commissione
(19 dicembre 2013)

Stando alle informazioni in nostro possesso e al sito web «Open Cohesion» ([1]), Alcatel Lucent non ha ricevuto nessun finanziamento dai fondi strutturali europei in Italia. Ulteriori informazioni su quali organizzazioni e imprese abbiano ricevuto finanziamenti dal bilancio dell'UE possono essere reperite utilizzando il motore di ricerca istituito nell'ambito del sistema di trasparenza finanziaria disponibile su BudgWeb ([2]).

La Commissione rammenta che il datore di lavoro ha l'obbligo d'informare e consultare i lavoratori prima di prendere decisioni che li interessano in caso di ristrutturazioni di imprese o di licenziamenti collettivi, conformemente alla normativa dell'UE ed in particolare alle direttive 2002/14/CE ([3]) e 98/59/CE ([4]). Spetta alle autorità nazionali competenti assicurare che la legislazione nazionale a recepimento di tali direttive sia applicata in modo corretto ed efficace.

Obiettivo del Fondo sociale europeo (FSE) è migliorare le opportunità occupazionali, promuovere l'istruzione e l'apprendimento permanente nonché sviluppare politiche attive d'inclusione. In questa sua qualità esso non eroga un sostegno d'emergenza ai lavoratori, come ad esempio quelli alle dipendenze di Alcatel Lucent. Tuttavia, i lavoratori interessati possono beneficiare delle attività cofinanziate dall'FSE.

Il ruolo del Fondo europeo di adeguamento alla globalizzazione (FEG) è per l'appunto quello di sostenere i lavoratori colpiti da licenziamenti su grande scala correlati alla globalizzazione.

([1]) http://www.opencoesione.gov.it/
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/beneficiaries_it.htm
([3]) Direttiva 2002/14/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, dell'11 marzo 2002, che istituisce un quadro generale relativo all'informazione e alla consultazione dei lavoratori, GU L 80 del 23.3.2002.
([4]) Direttiva 98/59/CE del Consiglio, del 20 luglio 1998, concernente il ravvicinamento delle legislazioni degli Stati membri in materia di licenziamenti collettivi, GU L 225 del 12.8.1998.

Inoltre l'accordo preliminare raggiunto di recente a livello di colegislazione reintroduce la «crisi» quale criterio di ammissibilità per il periodo di programmazione 2014-2020. Se ciò verrà confermato ne conseguirà che probabilmente l'Italia potrà chiedere un sostegno per i lavoratori interessati. L'Onorevole deputato è invitato ad interpellare la persona di contatto del FEG per l'Italia ([5]) per sapere se è prevista la presentazione di una simile domanda.

([5]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=581&langId=it

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012304/13
to the Commission
Matteo Salvini (EFD)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Request for measures to support 10 000 Alcatel Lucent workers facing redundancy

Alcatel Lucent manufactures hardware and software for the telecommunications industry. Its head office is in Paris. The company's Italian headquarters and main research facilities are in Vimercate, in the province of Monza and Brianza, and it has further research and development centres in Battipaglia and Rieti and a production plant in Trieste.

The company derives its name from the merger between the Alcatel and Lucent Technologies groups in 2006.

It has already sold some of its facilities to other companies and has now announced its intention to implement a downsizing plan in an attempt to become more competitive. Part of this plan involves making 10 000 workers redundant, including 600 in Vimercate alone.

Does the Commission know whether this multinational has received any EU funding, either directly or indirectly?

As regards the right to information of workers in businesses with more than 50 employees, what action does the Commission intend to take to prevent employees of such businesses finding themselves suddenly unemployed without notice?

Does the Commission intend to introduce an emergency fund to support workers like those employed at Alcatel Lucent during the next programming period and European Social Fund review?

Does the Commission plan to establish channels for multinationals to communicate with local and regional bodies about their industrial strategies for different regions?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

According to the information in our possession and to the 'Open Cohesion' website ([1]), Alcatel Lucent has not received any funding from the European structural funds in Italy. Further information on which organisations and companies have received funding from the EU budget may be found by using the search engine set up within the Financial Transparency System available on BudgWeb ([2]).

The Commission recalls that the employer has to inform and consult employees before taking decisions affecting them in cases of restructuring of companies or collective redundancies, in accordance with EC law in particular Directives 2002/14/EC ([3]) and 98/59/EC ([4]). It is for the competent national authorities to ensure that the national legislation transposing these Directives is correctly and effectively applied.

The aim of the European Social Fund (ESF) is to improve employment opportunities, promote education and life-long learning, and develop active inclusion policies. As such, it does not provide emergency support to workers such as those employed by Alcatel Lucent. However, the workers concerned may benefit from the activities co-financed by the ESF.

The Globalisation Adjustment Fund's (EGF) role is precisely to support workers affected by large-scale redundancies linked to globalisation.

Moreover the preliminary agreement recently reached by the co-legislation reintroduces the 'crisis' as an eligibility criterion for the programming period 2014-2020. If confirmed, that would most likely allow Italy to apply for support for the workers concerned. The Honourable Member is advised to get in touch with the EGF Contact Person for Italy ([5]) to enquire whether such an application is being planned.

([1]) http://www.opencoesione.gov.it/
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/beneficiaries_en.htm
([3]) Directive 2002/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community, OJ L 80, 23.3.2002.
([4]) Council Directive 98/59/EC of 20 July 1998 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies, OJ L 225, 12.8.1998.
([5]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=581&langId=it

(České znění)

Otázka k písemnému zodpovězení E-012306/13
Komisi
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)
(29. října 2013)

Předmět: Změny v přepravě osob na vozíku ze strany společnosti RegioJet, a.s.

Společnost RegioJet, a.s., která je součástí společnosti Student Agency, k.s. a od roku 2011 provozuje služby v oblasti železniční přepravy v České republice a na Slovensku, umístila dne 21. 10. 2013 na své internetové stránky sdělení cestujícím, že dle smlouvy s národním železničním dopravcem České dráhy, a.s. (ČD) byla nucena objednávat plošiny pro osoby na vozíku s velkým předstihem a z tohoto důvodu se rozhodla, že od 1. 11. 2013 upustí od předražené služby ČD a umožní nástup osob na vozíku i bez předchozí objednávky. RegioJet v tomto sdělení dále uvedla, že ČD si za zapůjčení této plošiny účtují 3 630 Kč až 7 260 Kč za jednu osobu na vozíku a 36 hodin před odjezdem tato služba ČD již není k dispozici. Proto bude od 1. 11. 2013 RegioJet nakládat osoby na vozíku do vlaku pomocí členů posádky RegioJet. Podle RegioJet je výhodou to, že cestující nemusí přepravu s vozíkem objednávat s předstihem. RegioJet zároveň uvedla, že nedisponuje nízkopodlažními vlaky pro přepravu cestujících na vozíku na trase Ostrava–Praha, a proto nedoporučuje osobám na vozíku cestování vlaky RegioJet, neboť jim nemůže zajistit plný komfort. Ve vlaku sice má k dispozici 5 až 7 míst pro vozíčkáře, tato místa jsou však na chodbě u WC a podle názoru RegioJet nejsou důstojná. Společnost dále uvedla, že pohyb po vlaku na vozíku není z prostorových důvodů možný. RegioJet těmto osobám ve svém sdělení doporučila využívat vlaky společnosti Leo Express. Na závěr uvedla, že pokud se cestující na vozíku rozhodne i přes tuto skutečnost cestovat s Regiojet, může tak činit i po 1. 11. 2013.

S ohledem na platnou legislativu v oblasti železniční přepravy, především pak na nařízení Evropského parlamentu a Rady (ES) č. 1371/2007 ze dne 23. října 2007 o právech a povinnostech cestujících v železniční přepravě:

Může Komise jednoznačně konstatovat, zda v České republice došlo, nebo nedošlo k porušení evropského práva?

Upravuje platná evropská legislativa ceny za pronájem plošin a jiných nástrojů na železnici pro přepravu osob s omezenou schopností pohybu?

Jaké podmínky musí přepravce poskytující služby na železnici splnit, aby měl právo odepřít nástup cestujícím se zdravotním postižením a osobám s omezenou schopností pohybu a orientace?

Považuje Komise nástup osob na vozíku s osobní asistencí za adekvátní řešení?

Odpověď Siima Kallase jménem Komise
(23. prosince 2013)

Uplatňování a prosazování nařízení (ES) č. 1371/2007 zajišťují členské státy, které rovněž jmenují vnitrostátní orgány [1], jež odpovídají za správné uplatňování uvedeného nařízení [2].

1. Podle čl. 19 odst. 1 nařízení musí mít železniční podniky zavedena nediskriminační pravidla pro přístup platná pro přepravu zdravotně postižených osob. Podle článků 22 a 23 nařízení musí provozovatelé stanic v obsazených železničních stanicích a železniční podniky poskytnout cestujícím s omezenou schopností pohybu a orientace bezplatnou pomoc takovým způsobem, aby mohli nastoupit do vlaku nebo z něj vystoupit. Nařízení nespecifikuje prostředky (rampy nebo jiná zařízení) k poskytování takovéto pomoci. Česká republika nevyjmula z uplatňování těchto článků žádné železniční dopravní spoje. Pokud je to tedy slučitelné s platnými pravidly pro přístup, nelze pomoc osobám na vozíku při nástupu do vlaku odmítnout. Jestliže se odmítnutí železničního podniku nezakládá jasně na těchto pravidlech pro přístup, zdá se, že je to v rozporu s uvedeným nařízením. České orgány odpovědné za prosazování nařízení by měly proto posoudit, zda je toto případ společnosti RegioJet.

2. Ne.

3. Přepravu lze odepřít pouze v tom případě, že je neslučitelná s nediskriminačními pravidly pro přístup, např. když konstrukce drážních vozidel (vyrobených před zavedením stávajících pravidel pro přístup) neumožňuje přepravu osob na vozíku.

[1] Článek 30 nařízení č. 1371/2007.
[2] V České republice se jedná o Drážní úřad.

4. Asistence poskytovaná cestujícím na vozíku při nástupu do vlaku členy posádky může být adekvátním doplňkem požadavků na přístupnost podle článku 21 týkajícího se technických specifikací pro interoperabilitu (TSI ([3])) pro osoby s omezenou schopností pohybu a orientace. Komise však nepovažuje za adekvátní, aby zaměstnanci pomáhali osobám na vozíku tak, že je budou přenášet. Detailní pravidla a požadavky týkající se pomocných zařízení pro nastupování, ramp a zvedacích plošin jsou stanoveny v rozhodnutí Komise 2008/164/ES ([4]).

([3]) Technické specifikace pro interoperabilitu týkající se osob s omezenou schopností pohybu a orientace.

([4]) Rozhodnutí Komise 2008/164/ES ze dne 21. prosince 2007 o technické specifikaci pro interoperabilitu týkající se „osob s omezenou schopností pohybu a orientace“ v transevropském konvenčním a vysokorychlostním železničním systému, Úř. věst. L 64, 7.3.2008.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012306/13
to the Commission
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Changes affecting the transport of passengers in wheelchairs made by RegioJet a.s.

RegioJet a.s., a subsidiary company of Student Agency k.s., has been operating rail transport services in the Czech Republic and Slovakia since 2011. On 21 October 2013, RegioJet placed a notice to passengers on its website announcing that the provisions of its contract with the national rail carrier, České Dráhy a.s. (ČD), were forcing it to order ramps for passengers in wheelchairs far in advance and that it had therefore decided to stop using ČD's overpriced service and permit passengers in wheelchairs to board without prior reservation. The notice went on to say that ČD charges between CZK 3630 and CZK 7260 for the rental of such a ramp for a single passenger in a wheelchair and that this ČD service is no longer available 36 hours before the train's departure. Therefore, from 1 November 2013 passengers in wheelchairs will board with the help of RegioJet crew members. This, according to RegioJet, is good for passengers as it means that they will not have to make reservations for travel in advance. RegioJet then stated that it did not have access to low-floor trains to transport passengers using wheelchairs along the Ostrava-Prague route and that it did not advise such passengers to travel on RegioJet trains, as their comfort could not be fully guaranteed. Although there are between five and seven wheelchair places per train, these places are situated in the corridor beside the toilets and RegioJet feels that they are unsuitable. The company further stated that passengers in wheelchairs would be unable to move through the train for reasons of space. The notice recommended that such passengers use trains operated by Leo Express. In spite of this, the notice concludes by informing wheelchair users that they may still travel with RegioJet even after 1 November 2013.

With regard to current legislation on rail transport, and in particular to Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations:

Can the Commission state with certainty whether or not European law has been breached in the Czech Republic?

Does current EU legislation regulate charges for the rental of ramps and other equipment used in transporting people with limited mobility on rail networks?

What conditions must the carrier providing rail services meet in order to have the right to refuse boarding to travellers with disabilities and limited mobility?

Does the Commission consider having staff help passengers in wheelchairs to board trains to be an adequate solution?

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

Member States ensure the application and enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 and designate national authorities (NEB) ([1]) in charge of the correct application of the regulation ([2]).

1. Under Article 19 (1) of the regulation, RUs must set up non-discriminatory access rules for the transport of disabled persons. Under Articles 22 and 23 of the regulation, station managers at staffed stations and RUs shall provide passengers with reduced mobility assistance free of charge to enable them to board and disembark from a train. The regulation does not specify the means (ramps or other) to provide such assistance. The Czech Republic has not exempted any rail services from the application of these Articles. Therefore, if this is compatible with the applicable access rules, assistance to wheelchair users to board a train cannot be refused. If the RU's refusal is not clearly based on these access rules it would seem that it is in breach of the regulation. The Czech NEB would need to assess whether this is the case of Regio Jet.

2. No.

3. Transport can only be refused where it is incompatible with non-discriminatory access rules, e.g. where the physical design of rolling stock (manufactured before current accessibility rules were in place) does not permit to transport wheelchair users.

([1]) Article 30 of Regulation 1371/2007.
([2]) In the Czech Republic this is the Drážní úřad (Rail Authority).

4. Staff helping passengers in wheelchairs to board trains may be adequate to complement the accessibility requirements under Article 21 on Technical specifications for interoperability (TSI ([3])) for persons with reduced mobility. However, the Commission does not consider it adequate that staff assist wheelchair users by carrying them. Detailed rules and requirements regarding boarding aids, ramps and platform lifts are set out in Commission Decision 2008/164/EC ([4]).

([3]) Technical Specifications for Interoperability for persons with reduced mobility.

([4]) Commission Decision 2008/164/EC of 21 December 2007 concerning the technical specification of interoperability relating to 'persons with reduced mobility' in the trans-European conventional and high-speed rail system, OJ L64 of 7.3.2008.

(Verżjoni Maltija)

Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub P-012309/13
lill-Kummissjoni
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 ta' Ottubru 2013)

Suġġett: Solidarjetá fir-rigward ta' kwestjonijiet dwar il-migrazzjoni

B'referenza għall-Mistoqsija Parlamentari E-009971/2013, il-Kummissarju Malmström wieġbet li "skont l-informazzjoni miksuba minn Frontex li tirrifletti s-sitwazzjoni bejn Jannar u Awwissu 2013, ir-rotta migratorja tal-Mediterran Ċentrali esperjenzat l-akbar żidiet fil-flussi tal-immigrazzjoni meta mqabbla mal-istess perjodu tal-2012. Biex inkunu aktar preċiżi, f'dak il-perjodu nkixxfu 19 599 immigranti irregolari, ammont li jirrappreżenta żieda ta' 217 %."

Matul il-laqgħa tal-Kunsill tal-24 u l-25 ta' Ottubru 2013, l-Istati Membri impenjaw ruħhom li, f'Diċembru 2013, se jieħdu deċiżjonijiet operazzjonali konkreti fir-rigward ta' kwestjonijiet dwar il-migrazzjoni.

Fid-dawl ta' din iż-żieda kbira fil-migrazzjoni irregolari fir-reġjun tal-Mediterran:

1. il-Kummissjoni se tiżgura li l-Istati Membri jirrispettaw il-prinċipju ta' solidarjetá, u tiżgura l-kondiviżjoni obbligatorja tal-piż fost l-Istati Membri?

2. il-Kummissjoni sa liema punt lesta timbotta lill-Istati Membri jiddeċiedu dwar miżuri effettivi f'Diċembru 2013?

Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sra Malmström f'isem il-Kummissjoni
(4 ta' Diċembru 2013)

Il-Kummissjoni tinsab inkwetata ferm bl-avvenimenti barra mill-kosta ta' Lampedusa, kif muri biż-żjara tal-President Barroso u l-Kummissarju Malmström fuq il-gżira fid-9 ta' Ottubru 2013. F'din l-okkażjoni l-Kummissjoni tenniet l-appoġġ tagħha lill-Istati Membri li jkollhom iwettqu operazzjonijiet kumplessi ta' Tfittxija u Salvataġġ u li jirċievu numru kbir ta' migranti, inkluż billi wiegħdet total ta' EUR 30 miljun għar-rinfurzar tar-rondi fuq il-baħar u għat-tisħiħ tas-sistema tal-asil fl-Italja. Parti minn dawn il-fondi se tkun użata sabiex tiġi aġġornata l-preżenza tal-Frontex fiż-żona. Dan se jkun inkluż ma' attivitajiet ta' appoġġ eżistenti mmirati lejn l-Italja, bħall-Pjan ta' Appoġġ tal-Uffiċċju Ewropew ta' Appoġġ fil-qasam tal-Asil (EASO).

B'konformità mad-diskussjonijiet fl-aħħar Kunsill tal-Ġustizzja u Affarijiet Interni, il-Kummissjoni waqqfet Task Force speċifika għall-Mediterran taħt il-presidenza tagħha. Din it-Task Force tlaqqa' flimkien lill-Istati Membri kollha u l-aġenziji rilevanti. F'Diċembru, se tippreżenta r-riżultati tal-ħidma tagħha lill-Kunsill, inklużi azzjonijiet ġodda mmirati biex jitnaqqas ir-riskju li traġedji bħal dawn jiġru fil-futur.

Rigward il-qsim tal-piżijiet fuq livell tal-UE, l-istatistiċi juru li 70% tal-applikanti tal-asil kollha huma milqugħa minn ħames pajjiżi biss, jiġifieri l-Ġermanja, il-Belġju, Franza, ir-Renju Unit u l-Isvezja. Huwa ċar, madankollu, li l-Istati Membri fuq il-fruntiera tan-Nofsinhar huma esposti għal pressjoni migratorja partikolari u t-Task Force se tipproponi azzjoni operazzjonali biex ikompli jingħata appoġġ lil dawn il-pajjiżi li ħafna drabi jiffaċċjaw pressjonijiet f'daqqa fuq is-sistemi ta' asil u ta' akkoljenza tagħhom, inkluż billi l-Istati Membri jiġu mistiedna jagħmlu użu mill-għodod volontarji disponibbli bħar-rilokazzjoni.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012309/13
to the Commission
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Solidarity regarding migration issues

With reference to Parliamentary Question E-009971/2013, Commissioner Malmström replied that 'according to the information obtained by Frontex and which reflects the situation between January and August 2013, the Central Mediterranean migratory route has recorded the greatest increases in immigration flows compared to the same period of 2012. More precisely, within that period 19 599 irregular immigrants were detected, which represents a 217% increase.'

In the Council meeting of 24 and 25 October 2013, the Member States committed to taking concrete operational decisions on migration issues in December 2013.

In view of this huge increase in irregular migration in the Mediterranean region:

1. will the Commission make sure that all the Member States respect the principle of solidarity, and ensure mandatory burden sharing among the Member States?

2. to what extent will the Commission push the Member States to decide on effective measures in December 2013?

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

The Commission is deeply concerned by the events off the coast of Lampedusa, as demonstrated by the visit President Barroso and Commissioner Malmström paid to the island on 9 October 2013. On that occasion the Commission reiterated its support to Member States having to undertake complex Search and Rescue operations and receiving a large number of migrants, including by pledging a total of EUR 30 million for the reinforcement of patrolling and the strengthening of the asylum system in Italy. A part of these funds will be used in order to upgrade the Frontex presence in the area. This will come on top of existing support activities targeted at Italy, such as the Support Plan of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

In line with the discussions in the last Justice and Home Affairs Council, the Commission has set up a dedicated Task Force for the Mediterranean under its presidency. This Task Force brings together all Member States and relevant agencies. It will present the results of its work in December to the Council, including new actions aimed at reducing the risk of such tragedies occurring in the future.

Concerning burden sharing at the EU level, statistics show that 70% of all asylum applicants are received by just five countries, namely Germany, Belgium, France, United Kingdom and Sweden. It is clear, however, that Member States on the southern border are exposed to particular migratory pressure and the Task Force will propose operational action to continue providing support to these countries which often face sudden pressures on their asylum and reception systems, including by inviting Member States to make use of available voluntary tools such as relocation.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012312/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Konstantinos Poupakis (PPE)
(29 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Ποσοστά κάλυψης του εργατικού δυναμικού από Συλλογικές Συμβάσεις Εργασίας

Ο Κοινωνικός Διάλογος και οι Ελεύθερες Συλλογικές Διαπραγματεύσεις αποτελούν μια βασική συνιστώσα του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινωνικού Μοντέλου. Ακολούθως οι Συλλογικές Συμβάσεις Εργασίας ως «προϊόντα» των παραπάνω διαδικασιών καθίστανται αναγκαία συνθήκη για τη διασφάλιση της εργασιακής ειρήνης και δικαιοσύνης, για τη «σύζευξη» του ελεύθερου οικονομικού ανταγωνισμού με την κοινωνική ασφάλεια και αλληλεγγύη. Στο πλαίσιο των πολιτικών αντιμετώπισης της δημοσιονομικής κρίσης, οι χώρες που αντιμετώπιζαν τα σοβαρότερα μακροοικονομικά προβλήματα κλήθηκαν από την Τρόικα να προωθήσουν μεταρρυθμίσεις και παρεμβάσεις που αφενός αποδυνάμωναν τον κοινωνικό διάλογο και αφετέρου οδηγούσαν σε μια βίαιη αποκέντρωση του Συστήματος των Συλλογικών Διαπραγματεύσεων σε επίπεδο ατόμου (ατομικές συμβάσεις). Σε αυτήν την κατεύθυνση ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Πώς αξιολογεί τις συνέπειες της βίαιης αποκέντρωσης των Συλλογικών Διαπραγματεύσεων στην εργατική πλευρά, όταν είναι κοινή παραδοχή ότι η σχέση εργαζόμενου-εργοδότη είναι εξ ορισμού άνιση και ετεροβαρής;

2. Κρίνει πως υπάρχει άμεση συσχέτιση των μεταρρυθμίσεων στην αγορά εργασίας με τη ραγδαία αύξηση του ποσοστού φτωχών εργαζομένων;

3. Διαθέτει στοιχεία σχετικά με τα ποσοστά κάλυψης του εργατικού δυναμικού των κρατών μελών από Συλλογικές Συμβάσεις Εργασίας;

Απάντηση του κ. Andor εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(18 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

1. Ως γενική αρχή η Επιτροπή δεν προτείνει κανένα ιδιαίτερο επίπεδο διαπραγματεύσεων. Σύμφωνα με το άρθρο 152 της ΣΛΕΕ, η Επιτροπή υποχρεούται να σέβεται την αυτονομία των κοινωνικών εταίρων και την ποικιλομορφία των συστημάτων εργασιακών σχέσεων. Είναι σημαντικό η συγκέντρωση των διαπραγματεύσεων να ιδωθεί εντός ενός ευρύτερου πλαισίου εργασιακών σχέσεων, συμπεριλαμβανομένου του συντονισμού των διαπραγματεύσεων.

2. Η Επιτροπή παρακολουθεί στενά την εξέλιξη της φτώχειας των εργαζομένων. Ενθαρρύνει τα κράτη μέλη να εφαρμόσουν τις κατάλληλες μεταρρυθμίσεις της εργατικής νομοθεσίας και των συστημάτων καθορισμού των μισθών, έτσι ώστε να καταστεί η αγορά εργασίας πιο ανθεκτική, να αντιμετωπιστεί ο κατακερματισμός της και η εργασιακή αβεβαιότητα, καθώς επίσης να βελτιωθεί η ποιότητα της απασχόλησης. Ειδικότερα, για να αντιμετωπιστεί το φαινόμενο των φτωχών εργαζομένων, η Επιτροπή συνιστά οι κατώτατοι μισθοί να καθορίζονται σε κατάλληλα επίπεδα, να μειωθεί το φορολογικό βάρος που επωμίζονται οι εργαζόμενοι με χαμηλά εισοδήματα, και να επεκταθούν οι παροχές λόγω εργασίας, έτσι ώστε να αυξηθεί το καθαρό εισόδημα των εργαζομένων ([1]).

Επιπλέον, το εν λόγω φαινόμενο ([2]) δεν εξαρτάται μόνο από τις ατομικές αποδοχές, αλλά και από τη σύνθεση των νοικοκυριών και το κατά πόσο απασχολούνται όλα τα μέλη του νοικοκυριού. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, η Επιτροπή συνιστά την προώθηση της απασχόλησης όσων συμπληρώνουν το εισόδημα μιας οικογενειακής εστίας και των μόνων γονέων, με την παροχή υπηρεσιών υποστήριξης (π.χ. παιδική μέριμνα), με την εξασφάλιση επαρκούς εισοδηματικής στήριξης, καθώς και με τα κατάλληλα κίνητρα και υποστήριξη στην εργασία.

3. Η έκθεση «Industrial Relations in Europe» (Εργασιακές σχέσεις στην Ευρώπη), που δημοσιεύεται δύο φορές ετησίως από την Επιτροπή ως έγγραφο εργασίας των υπηρεσιών της, περιλαμβάνει στοιχεία σχετικά με την κάλυψη των απασχολούμενων μισθωτών από συλλογικές διαπραγματεύσεις ([3]).

([1]) Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή, «Στοχεύοντας σε μια ανάκαμψη με άφθονες θέσεις απασχόλησης», COM(2012)173 τελικό.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=6176
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/empl_portal/publications/Industrialrelations2012/Chap1_Chart-1.xlsx

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012312/13
to the Commission
Konstantinos Poupakis (PPE)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Percentage of labour force covered by collective agreements

Social dialogue and free collective bargaining are a basic component of the European social model. Therefore, as a 'product' of the above procedures, collective agreements are a necessary precondition to peace and justice on the labour market and for 'pairing' free economic competition with social security and solidarity. Within the framework of policies to address the budgetary crisis, the Troika has called on the countries with the most serious macroeconomic problems to push forward reforms and interventions which, on the one hand, weaken social dialogue and, on the other hand, brutally decentralise the collective bargaining system to individual level (individual contracts). In view of this, will the Commission say:

1. What is its assessment of the impact of the brutal decentralisation of collective bargaining on the workers' side, when it is commonly accepted that relations between workers and employers are, by definition, unequal and one-sided?

2. Does it consider that there is a direct correlation between labour market reforms and the spiralling rate of working poor?

3. Does it have statistics on the percentage of the labour force of the Member States which is covered by collective agreements?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(18 December 2013)

1. As a general principle, the Commission does not advocate any particular level of bargaining. In line with Article 152 TFEU, it is bound to respect the autonomy of the social partners and the diversity of Industrial Relations systems. It is important to consider bargaining centralisation in a wider industrial relations context, including bargaining coordination.

2. The Commission closely monitors the development of in-work poverty. It encourages Member States to pursue adequate reforms in labour law and wage setting systems with a view to making the labour market more resilient, combating segmentation and precariousness, and improve the quality of jobs. In particular, to fight in-work poverty, the Commission advises to set minimum wages at appropriate levels, reduce the tax wedge on low-income workers, and to expand in-work benefits to boost 'take-home' pay. [1]

Additionally, in-work poverty [2] does not only depend on individual wages, but also on the composition of the household and the employment participation by all household members. In this context, the Commission suggests to promote employment of second-earners and lone parents, by providing enabling services (e.g. childcare) and by ensuring adequate income support, along with appropriate incentives and support to work.

3. The Industrial Relations in Europe Report, which is published bi-annually by the Commission as a Staff Working Document, includes data on bargaining coverage of wage and salary earners in employment. [3]

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(1) European Commission 'Towards a Job-Rich Recovery', COM(2012) 713 final, 18.4.2012.
(2) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=6176
(3) http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/empl_portal/publications/Industrialrelations2012/Chap1_Chart-1.xlsx

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta P-012313/13
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)
(29 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Emergenza causata dal batterio Xylella fastidiosa in Salento

Per la prima volta in Europa viene segnalata la presenza di un patogeno da quarantena che attacca gli ulivi.

Il nome scientifico è «Xylella fastidiosa» ed è un batterio che viene trasmesso alle piante attraverso le punture di un insetto che non è stato ancora identificato. A rischio fino ad ora sono gli ulivi impiantati in 8mila ettari tra Gallipoli e Ugento in Salento, per cui saranno abbattuti 600mila alberi. Secondo gli esperti questo batterio killer rappresenta una minaccia per l'olivicoltura europea per la velocità di propagazione con cui si sta diffondendo. A rischio, tuttavia, ci sono anche i mandorli e gli oleandri.

La situazioni è critica e gli alberi divorati da tale batterio saranno destinati inesorabilmente all'abbattimento. Sono in corso da qualche giorno drastiche potature di ulivi, per eliminare le parti disseccate degli alberi colpiti, coordinate dalla Regione Puglia e dalle associazioni di categoria.

Alla luce di ciò, può la Commissione chiarire:

1. se è informata dell'emergenza del batterio «Xylella fastidiosa» scoppiata in Salento, ma che potrebbe avere ripercussioni in tutta Europa,

2. se per far fronte all'epidemia che ha provocato l'abbattimento di 600mila ulivi è possibile utilizzare le risorse del Fondo di gestione delle crisi del settore agricolo in base al regolamento (CE) n. 1234/2007 del Consiglio (regolamento OCM unica) per risarcire i produttori danneggiati,

3. se, in base a detto regolamento, è possibile utilizzare le risorse del Fondo di gestione delle crisi del settore agricolo per disporre un piano straordinario di intervento scientifico e sanitario coordinato con la Regione Puglia e le associazioni di categoria, che hanno già avviato in Salento studi sulla «Xylella fastidiosa»,

4. se è possibile creare una banca dati europea sui genomi dei batteri patogeni delle colture per raccogliere statistiche e informazioni su batteri e forme parassitarie utilizzabili in coordinamento con gli Stati membri per futuri piani straordinari di intervento in occasione di eventuali epidemie?

Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione
(5 dicembre 2013)

1.-2. La Commissione rimanda l'onorevole parlamentare alla sua risposta all'interrogazione scritta E- 012187/2013 ([1]).

3. La Commissione non ha la possibilità di intervenire nel quadro del regolamento del Consiglio (CE) n. 1234/2007.

Nell'ambito del 7° Programma quadro UE sono finanziati alcuni progetti di ricerca finalizzati alla prevenzione dell'insediamento e della diffusione di parassiti. Xylella fastidiosa è uno dei parassiti sui quali si concentra il progetto QBOL ([2]) che ha generato strumenti diagnostici per una grande quantità di parassiti soggetti a quarantena e simili, una base di dati comune di codici a barre per il DNA e le relative collezioni di riferimento.

4. La Commissione prevede di sostenere lo sviluppo di una base di dati europea del DNA di organismi nocivi alle piante, in grado di consentire una diagnosi rapida ed affidabile. Si prevede che la base giuridica per il sostegno finanziario dell'Unione sia la proposta della Commissione COM(2013)327 def. ([3]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html
([2]) http://www.qbol.org/
([3]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0327:FIN:EN:PDF

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012313/13
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Emergency in the Salento area caused by the appearance of the bacterium Xylella fastidiosa

The first appearance in Europe of a quarantine plant pathogen which attacks olive trees has been reported in Italy.

The bacterium (scientific name: Xylella fastidiosa) is transmitted to plants by an insect that has yet to be identified. To date, olive groves covering 8000 hectares in the area between Gallipoli and Ugento in the Salento region have been identified as under threat, and 600 000 trees are to be destroyed in response. According to experts, this bacterium is a serious threat to European olive growers, given the pace at which the disease is spreading. The disease also attacks almond and oleander trees.

The situation is critical, as trees that are infected will ultimately have to be destroyed. Large-scale pruning of olive trees to remove the parts that have been dried out by the disease is currently in progress in the area, under the coordination of the Puglia regional authorities and producer organisations.

1. Is the Commission aware of the Xylella fastidiosa emergency in the Salento area and of its possible repercussions for Europe as a whole?

2. In response to this epidemic, which has resulted in the destruction of 600 000 olive trees, can agricultural crisis management funding under Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 (Single CMO Regulation) be used to compensate the producers affected?

3. Under that regulation, can such funding be used to set up an emergency programme of scientific research and plant health measures coordinated with the Puglia regional authorities and producer organisations, which have already initiated studies into the Xylella fastidiosa outbreak in the Salento area?

4. Would it be possible to set up a European crop pathogen genome database to centralise information on bacteria and parasites that could be used in coordination with Member States when emergency action is required in response to epidemics of this kind?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(5 December 2013)

1 and 2. The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-012187/2013 ([1]).

3. The Commission has no possibility to intervene in the framework of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007.

Under the EU's 7th Framework Programme, a number of research projects are funded aiming at prevention of establishment and spread of new pests. Xylella fastidiosa is one of the target pests of the project QBOL ([2]) which has generated diagnostic tools for a large number of quarantine pests and their look-alikes, a common database of DNA barcodes, and the relevant reference collections.

4. The Commission envisages supporting the development of a European database of the DNA of harmful organisms of plants, enabling rapid and reliable diagnosis. The legal base for Union financial support is foreseen in the Commission's proposal COM(2013)327 final ([3]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html
([2]) http://www.qbol.org/
([3]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0327:FIN:EN:PDF

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-012315/13
aan de Commissie
Mark Demesmaeker (Verts/ALE)
(29 oktober 2013)

Betreft: Taalpolitiek Europese Commissie

Als Europarlementslid ben ik een veelvuldig gebruiker van het webportaal van de Commissie, en de webportalen van de verschillende onderdelen van de Commissie (directoraten-generaal, DGs). Ik merk daarbij dat de contactgegevens op de internetpagina's van die DGs onderling verschillend zijn.

Ten eerste worden, in de Engelstalige of (als die beschikbaar is) anderstalige versie van de webportalen, vaak eentalige Franstalige adressen gebruikt voor het fysieke (post)adres van de DG in kwestie. Dat is o.a. zo voor de DGs COMM, AGRI, ENER, ENTR, SANCO, HOME, MARE, RTD, FPI, OLAF. OIB gebruikt zelfs een eentalig Franstalige kaart van Brussel om aan te geven welke gebouwen de Commissie in Brussel gebruikt, zie http://ec.europa.eu/oib/buildings_en.cfm en http://ec.europa.eu/oib/pdf/building-map_en.pdf Voorbeelden waar het wel goed verloopt, zijn DGs COMP en DGT.

Ten tweede, ook in veel Engelstalige communicatie (uitnodigingen voor conferenties, studiedagen, enz.) van de Commissie zie ik veel eentalig Franstalige adressen opduiken.

Ik zou er bij de Commissie voor willen pleiten om tweetalige (NL en FR) adressen in Engels(- en anders)talige communicatie te willen gebruiken, op de algemene webportalen of in uitnodigingen voor evenementen. Zo hoort het ook: adressen maken deel uit van de officiële nomenclatuur van Brussel dat tot nader bericht een officieel tweetalige regio is. De Commissie zou door deze praktijk elementair respect betonen voor de regio, inclusief haar Vlaamse inwoners, en voor het land waar ze te gast is.

Kan de Commissie mij zeggen of deze onderling verschillende taalpolitiek tussen de verschillende afdelingen een bewust beleid is?

Erkent de Commissie dat dit verschillend (en feitelijk incorrect) taalbeleid een gevoel van disrespect kan oproepen bij Vlaamse inwoners van Brussel?

Erkent de Commissie dat dit in de rest van Europa/wereld verkeerdelijk de indruk wekt dat Brussel een eentalig Franstalige stad is?

Kan de Commissie mij verzekeren dat de nodige aanpassingen zullen worden doorgevoerd, nl. dat de webportalen in de beschreven zin worden aangepast en dat contactgegevens en uitnodigingen in de twee officiële talen van Brussel zullen worden aangegeven? Zo nee, waarom niet?

Kan de Commissie mij verzekeren dat er een interne richtlijn zal worden uitgevaardigd die dit zal opleggen aan alle diensten van de Commissie?

Antwoord van mevrouw Reding namens de Commissie
(9 december 2013)

Alle afdelingen van de Commissie erkennen dat bepaalde organisatorische informatie moet worden geharmoniseerd. Dit maakt ook deel uit van het lopende webrationaliseringsprogramma waarmee de Commissie haar websites coherenter, relevanter en kostenefficiënter wil maken.

In het kader van dit programma worden de websites van de verschillende diensten van de Commissie grondig herzien. In de loop van 2014 wordt daarbij allerlei informatie gelijkgetrokken, met name over de structuur, taken en rol van die diensten. Ook de vermelding van de locatie, inclusief de vormgeving van die informatie en de gebruikte talen, wordt gestroomlijnd.

Hoewel deze verbeteringen slechts geleidelijk voor de hele Commissie kunnen worden aangebracht, zal DG Communicatie op haar eigen website de adressen van de gebouwen alvast zo snel mogelijk in het Frans en in het Nederlands publiceren. Bovendien zal DG Communicatie het werk van de webteams van alle overige directoraten-generaal van de Commissie coördineren om te zorgen voor een passende follow-up.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012315/13
to the Commission
Mark Demesmaeker (Verts/ALE)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: The Commission's language policy

As a Member of the European Parliament I am a frequent user of the Commission's web portal and those of its various directorates-general (DGs), and I have noticed that the contact details given on the various websites vary from one DG to another.

Firstly, in the English or (where available) other language versions of the web portals, monolingual French language addresses are often given for the physical (postal) address of the DG in question. This is the case with DGs COMM, AGRI, ENER, ENTR, SANCO, HOME, MARE and RTD, the service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) and OLAF. The Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels (OIB) even uses a monolingual French-language map of Brussels to show which buildings in Brussels are occupied by the Commission. (See http://ec.europa.eu/oib/buildings_en.cfm and http://ec.europa.eu/oib/pdf/building-map_en.pdf). Examples of the correct procedure may be found on the sites of DG COMP and DGT.

Secondly, I have also noticed many monolingual French-language addresses appearing in English-language communications from the Commission (invitations to conferences, study days etc.).

I would urge the Commission to use bilingual (Dutch and French) addresses in English and other language communications, on its public web portals and in invitations to events. This is the proper way of doing things: addresses are part of the official nomenclature of Brussels, which until further notice is an officially bilingual region. This is no more than common courtesy towards the region, including its Flemish inhabitants, and towards its host country.

Can the Commission tell me whether this divergent use of languages between its various DGs is a deliberate policy?

Does the Commission acknowledge that these divergent (and in fact incorrect) practices may lead to a feeling of disrespect among the Flemish population of Brussels?

Does the Commission acknowledge that this gives the incorrect impression elsewhere in Europe and worldwide that Brussels is a monoglot French-speaking city?

Can the Commission assure me that the necessary adjustments will be made, and in particular that the web portals will be amended as I have indicated and that contact details and invitations will appear in the two official languages of Brussels? If not, why not?

Can the Commission assure me that an internal directive will be drawn up instructing all Commission departments to act accordingly?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(9 December 2013)

The need to harmonise specific organisational information has been identified across Commission services. It is part of the Commission's web rationalisation programme designed to overhaul its online presence with a view to becoming more coherent, relevant and cost-effective.

The programme includes a fundamental review of the organisation of the websites managed by the different Commission services. In this context, information provided on the services' organisational structure, their missions and role, as well as their location and the way such information is displayed, including the linguistic regime applied, will be aligned during the course of 2014.

While these improvements can only be implemented progressively across the entire Commission's web presence, DG Communication will follow-up swiftly and provide on its website the addresses of buildings in both French and Dutch. In addition, DG Communication will coordinate with the web teams of all Commission services to ensure appropriate follow-up.

(Wersja polska)

Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-012318/13
do Komisji
Marek Henryk Migalski (ECR)
(29 października 2013 r.)

Przedmiot: Współpraca Unii Europejskiej z Federacją Rosyjską na poziomie Komisji Europejskiej

Obecnie relacje Unii Europejskiej i Federacji Rosyjskiej znajdują się w politycznym impasie. Brak przełomowych decyzji i uzgodnień pomiędzy stronami na temat nowego porozumienia o partnerstwie i współpracy. Niemniej jednak prowadzone są bilateralne prace dotyczące różnych aspektów współpracy, jak na przykład energia. Nie sposób jednak odnaleźć w jednym miejscu skatalogowanej listy wszystkich dwustronnych ciał, grup czy instytucji zajmujących się unijno-rosyjską współpracą we wszystkich dziedzinach.

Czy Komisja może przedstawić katalog wszystkich grup roboczych, wspólnych ciał, komisji i tym podobnych gremiów, które zajmują się dwustronną współpracą pomiędzy Unią Europejską i Federacją Rosyjską?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez Wysoką Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodniczącą Komisji Catherine Ashton w imieniu Komisji
(3 grudnia 2013 r.)

Kierunek stosunków UE-Rosja jest określany przez umowę o partnerstwie i współpracy, która wskazuje też główne struktury i instrumenty mające na celu rozwój tych stosunków. Obejmują one w szczególności regularne spotkania na szczycie, Stałe Rady Partnerstwa i różne formy spotkań poświęconych dialogowi politycznemu.

Spotkania o bardziej technicznym charakterze są organizowane w ramach czterech wspólnych przestrzeni. Najnowsze sprawozdanie z postępu prac dotyczących wdrażania wspólnych przestrzeni obejmuje różne dziedziny współpracy oraz wskazuje odpowiednie struktury.

Ponadto roczne sprawozdania z postępów w sprawie partnerstwa na rzecz modernizacji są źródłem szczegółowych informacji na temat najnowszych wydarzeń w różnych dziedzinach.

Wszystkie wspomniane dokumenty są publicznie dostępne pod adresem: http://eeas.europa.eu/russia/.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012318/13
to the Commission
Marek Henryk Migalski (ECR)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: EU-Russia cooperation at Commission level

Relations between the EU and the Russian Federation are currently in a political deadlock. The two sides have failed to achieve a breakthrough decision on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. Nevertheless, bilateral work is being carried out on various aspects of cooperation, such as energy. However, it is impossible to find in one place a list of all the bilateral bodies, groups and institutions involved in EU-Russia cooperation in all areas.

Can the Commission provide a list of all the working groups, joint bodies, committees and similar bodies involved in bilateral cooperation between the European Union and the Russian Federation?

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

EU-Russia relations are guided by the partnership and cooperation agreement which also defines the main structures and instruments for the development of relations. This notably includes regular Summit meetings, Permanent Partnership Councils and Political Dialogue meetings in various formats.

More technical meetings are organised in the framework of the Four Common Spaces. The latest Progress Report on the Implementation of the Common Spaces covers various fields of cooperation and also mentions the relevant structures.

Furthermore, the annual progress reports on the Partnership for Modernisation provide detailed information on latest developments in the various fields.

All the documents mentioned are publicly available at the following site: http://eeas.europa.eu/russia/

(Verżjoni Maltija)

Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-012319/13
lill-Kummissjoni
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 ta' Ottubru 2013)

Suġġett: Politiki tal-għoti tad-demm diskriminatorji

L-għoti tad-demm hu att onorevoli u ta' min jammirah. Hu att li jista' jsalva l-ħajjiet ta' ħafna. Madankollu, id-donaturi tad-demm huma soġġetti għal kriterji ta' eliġibilità. Wieħed jifhem li persuni li huma f'riskju li jinfettaw id-demm ta' ħaddieħor b'mard infettiv jew malinn jekk jagħtu d-demm għandhom jiġu miżmuma milli jagħmlu dan. Ir-Rakkomandazzjoni tal-Kunsill 98/463/KE tad-29 ta' Ġunju 1998 dwar l-adegwatezza ta' donaturi tad-demm u tal-plasma u l-iskrinjar ta' demm mogħti fil-Kommunità Ewropea tagħti parir li persuni li jipparteċipaw "f'imġiba sesswali li tpoġġihom f'riskju akbar li jittrasmettu mard infettiv, inklużi dawk li għamlu sess għall-flus jew droga" jkunu ddifferiti b'mod permanenti milli jagħtu d-demm.

Xi Stati Membri jipprojbixxu lill-persuni omosesswali maskili milli jagħtu d-demm, bir-raġunament li dawn huma grupp ta' riskju għoli. Stati Membri oħrajn, bħar-Renju Unit, jinfurzaw differiment temporanju ta' eliġibilità għal irġiel li kellhom x'jaqsmu sesswalment ma' rġiel oħra fit-12-il xahar ta' qabel (leġiżlazzjoni tar-Renju Unit infurzata sa mis-7 ta' Novembru 2011).

1. Il-Kummissjoni hija konxja dwar dawn il-politiki?

2. Il-Kummissjoni taqbel mal-fehma li politiki bħal dawn huma ferm diskriminatorji?

3. Il-Kummissjoni x'azzjoni biħsiebha tieħu sabiex tiżgura li ma jkunx hemm diskriminazzjoni fil-politiki tal-għoti tad-demm?

Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Borg f'isem il-Kummissjoni
(11 ta' Diċembru 2013)

Il-Kummissjoni tirreferi lill-Onorevoli Membru għat-tweġibiet għall-mistoqsijiet E-006484/2011 and E-006791/2012 ([1]).

F'dawn it-tweġibiet, il-Kummissjoni tfakkar li d-Direttiva tal-Kummissjoni 2004/33/EC ([2]) tistabbilixxi d-differiment ta' donaturi li "l-imġiba sesswali tagħhom tpoġġihom f'riskju għoli li jakkwistaw mard serju li jittieħed li jista" jiġi trasmess mid-demm.' Il-Kummissjoni tinnota, f'dan ir-rigward, li l-"imġiba sesswali" mhijiex l-istess bħall-"orjentazzjoni sesswali'. L-Istati Membri jridu jimplimentaw din id-Direttiva b'osservanza sħiħa tal-Karta tal-UE tad-Drittijiet Fundamentali, partikolarment l-Artikolu 21 li jipprojbixxi d-diskriminazzjoni fuq il-bażi tal-orjentazzjoni sesswali.

Il-Kummissjoni temmen li ħadd ma għandu jiġi eskluż milli jagħti d-demm mingħajr ġustifikazzjoni xierqa. Sabiex jiġu rfinati l-kriterji tad-differiment, il-Kummissjoni għalhekk tistieden lill-Istati Membri jiġbru aktar dejta dwar l-inċidenza ta" dan it-tip ta' mard f'gruppi speċifiċi tal-popolazzjoni, u jappoġġaw li-ħidma kontinwa tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa għal dan l-għan.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/mt/parliamentary-questions.html
([2]) Id-Direttiva tal-Kummissjoni 2004/33/KE li timplimenta d-Direttiva 2002/98/KE tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill rigward ċerti ħtiġiet tekniċi tad-demm u tal-komponenti tad-demm , ĠU L91, 30.3.2004, p. 25. Edizzjoni Speċjali bil-Malti: Kapitlu 15 Volum 08 P. 272 — 286.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012319/13
to the Commission
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Discriminatory blood donation policies

Donating blood is an act that is honourable and admirable. It is an act that can help save the lives of many. However, blood donors are subject to eligibility criteria. It is understandable that people who are at risk of infecting someone else's blood with an infectious or malignant disease if they donate blood should be prevented from doing so. Council Recommendation 98/463/EC of 29 June 1998 on the suitability of blood and plasma donors and the screening of donated blood in the European Community advises that persons who engage in 'sexual behaviour which places them at high risk of transmitting infectious diseases, including persons who have had sex in return for money or drugs' be permanently deferred from being able to donate blood.

Some Member States ban male homosexuals from donating blood, saying that they are a high-risk group. Other Member States, such as the United Kingdom, enforce a temporary deferral of eligibility for men who have had sex with another man within the previous 12 months (UK legislation enforced as of 7 November 2011).

1. Is the Commission aware of these policies?

2. Does the Commission agree with the view that such policies are highly discriminatory?

3. What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that there is no discrimination in blood donation policies?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(11 December 2013)

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to the replies to questions E-006484/2011 and E-006791/2012 ([1]).

In these replies, the Commission recalls that Commission Directive 2004/33/EC ([2]) establishes deferral of donors 'whose sexual behaviour puts them at high risk of acquiring severe infectious diseases that can be transmitted by blood.' The Commission notes, in this respect, that 'sexual behaviour' is not identical to 'sexual orientation'. Member States must implement this directive in full respect of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, notably Article 21, which prohibits discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation.

The Commission believes nobody should be excluded from donating blood without proper justification. In order to fine-tune the deferral criteria, the Commission therefore calls on all Member States to collect more data on incidence of such diseases in specific population groups, and supports the ongoing work of Council of Europe to this end.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html
([2]) Commission Directive 2004/33/EC implementing Directive 2002/98/EC as regards certain technical requirements for blood and blood components, OJ L 91, 30.3.2004, p. 25.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012321/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Αποτελεσματικότητα των σχεδίων διάσωσης με δημόσιους πόρους και με ίδια μέσα

Τα αυστηρά μέτρα λιτότητας στην Ελλάδα και στην Κύπρο επιδεινώνουν την κρίση στις χώρες αυτές και θέτουν σε κίνδυνο την αποτελεσματικότητα των σχεδίων διάσωσης με δημόσιους πόρους και με ίδια μέσα, τα οποία, αντί να προωθούν την ανάπτυξη, οδηγούν σε μονόπλευρη απορρύθμιση των εργασιακών αγορών, χαλάρωση των συλλογικών συμβάσεων, αναγκαστική μείωση του κατώτατου μισθού και σημαντικές περικοπές στις συντάξεις, τις παροχές και τα επιδόματα των συνταξιούχων και άλλων ευπαθών κοινωνικών ομάδων. Παράλληλα, με τον πληθωρισμό και την αύξηση της φορολογίας, πολυάριθμες οικογένειες οδηγούνται σε συνθήκες φτώχειας και υποβάθμιση βιοτικού επιπέδου, με εκτεταμένες αρνητικές επιπτώσεις στην καθημερινή ζωή, στις οποίες συχνά περιλαμβάνονται προβλήματα ψυχικής υγείας, κατάθλιψη και αυξημένα ποσοστά αυτοκτονιών, καθώς και σημαντική μείωση στην παροχή δημόσιων υπηρεσιών.

1. Μπορεί η Επιτροπή να παράσχει συγκριτικές στατιστικές για τις χώρες της ΕΕ/της ευρωζώνης για την περίοδο 2009-2013 όσον αφορά:

— τους κατώτατους μισθούς·

— τα επίπεδα φτώχειας·

— τα επίπεδα αυτοκτονιών·

— την ποιότητα των δημόσιων υπηρεσιών;

2. Ποια συγκεκριμένα μέτρα μπορούν να ληφθούν στις χώρες της Νότιας Ευρώπης, ειδικότερα στην Κύπρο και την Ελλάδα, για να βελτιωθεί η τρέχουσα κοινωνική κατάσταση;

Απάντηση του κ. Andor εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(23 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

1. Οι πίνακες στο παράρτημα περιέχουν στοιχεία της Eurostat σχετικά με τους θεσμοθετημένους κατώτατους μισθούς, τα ποσοστά του κινδύνου φτώχειας και τα ποσοστά αυτοκτονιών για τα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ. Δεν υπάρχουν διαθέσιμες στατιστικές πληροφορίες σχετικά με την ποιότητα των δημόσιων υπηρεσιών.

2. Η θέσπιση συστήματος κοινωνικής ασφάλειας προβλέπεται στο πλαίσιο του 2ου προγράμματος προσαρμογής για την Ελλάδα. Οι αρχές σχεδιάζουν ένα πρόγραμμα βοήθειας για τους μακροχρόνια ανέργους που θα απευθύνεται στους φτωχούς, καθώς και ένα σύστημα ελάχιστου εισοδήματος που θα δημιουργηθεί σε πιλοτική βάση. Το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο (ΕΚΤ) στην Ελλάδα υποστηρίζει ενέργειες για την καταπολέμηση των υψηλών επιπέδων ανεργίας, ιδίως της μακροχρόνιας ανεργίας και της ανεργίας των νέων. Μεταξύ άλλων, υπάρχουν τα μέτρα που προβλέπονται στο πλαίσιο της πρωτοβουλίας «ευκαιρίες για τους νέους» και το πρόγραμμα δημοσίων έργων. Το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης (ΕΤΠΑ) τα συμπληρώνει με τη δημιουργία θέσεων εργασίας μέσω έργων υποδομής.

Όσον αφορά την Κύπρο, το μνημόνιο συμφωνίας προβλέπει την εκτεταμένη μεταρρύθμιση του συστήματος κοινωνικής πρόνοιας που θα επιτρέψει στην Κύπρο να αντιμετωπίσει πιο αποτελεσματικά το ζήτημα των φτωχών. Το νέο σύστημα ελάχιστου εγγυημένου εισοδήματος (GMI) αναμένεται να έχει θετικό αντίκτυπο στην άμβλυνση της ακραίας φτώχειας. Επίσης, το ΕΚΤ στηρίζει την Κύπρο στην αντιμετώπιση των αναγκών των ανέργων και των αδύναμων ομάδων μέσω στοχοθετημένων μέτρων στο πλαίσιο του τρέχοντος ΕΠ του ΕΚΤ για την περίοδο 2007-2013.

Η ενίσχυση της ανάπτυξης και η δημιουργία θέσεων εργασίας αποτελούν επίσης προτεραιότητες βάσει του τρέχοντος επιχειρησιακού προγράμματος (ΕΠ) του ΕΤΠΑ που, μεταξύ άλλων, αφορούν τα έργα για τις ΜΜΕ και την επιχειρηματικότητα των νέων.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012321/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Efficacy of bailout and bail-in plans

Severe austerity measures in Greece and Cyprus are deepening the crisis there and jeopardising the efficacy of the bailout and bail-in plans, which, rather than encouraging growth, are leading to the one-sided deregulation of labour markets, the relaxation of collective agreements, forced reduction of the minimum wage and severe cuts in pensions, benefits and subsidies for pensioners and other vulnerable groups in society. Moreover, inflation and increased taxation are pushing large numbers of families into poverty conditions and deteriorating living standards, with far-reaching adverse effects on daily life, often including mental health problems, depression and increased suicide rates, together with a marked decline in the provision of public services.

1. Can the Commission provide comparative statistics for EU/eurozone countries for the 2009-2013 period with regard to:

— minimum wages;

— poverty levels;

— suicide rates;

— quality of public services.

2. What specific measures can be taken in countries in the south of Europe, particularly Cyprus and Greece, in order to alleviate the current social situation?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(23 December 2013)

1. The tables in annex provide Eurostat data on statutory minimum wages, at-risk-of-poverty rates, and suicide rates for EU Member States. There is no statistical information available on the quality of public services.

2. The introduction of a social safety net is foreseen in the context of the 2nd adjustment programme for Greece. The authorities are designing an assistance scheme for the long term unemployed targeted at the poor, as well as a minimum income scheme to be created on a pilot basis. The European Social Fund (ESF) in Greece supports actions to combat high levels of unemployment, particularly long-term and youth unemployment. Among others there are the measures envisaged in the framework of the Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Public Works Scheme. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) complements this through job creation via infrastructure projects.

Concerning Cyprus the memorandum of understanding foresees a comprehensive reform of the welfare system that will allow Cyprus to better target those in need. The new guaranteed minimum income scheme (GMI) is expected to have a positive impact on mitigating extreme poverty. Also, the ESF supports Cyprus in addressing the needs of the unemployed and disadvantaged groups through targeted measures under the current 2007-2013 ESF OP.

Enhancing growth and job creation are also priorities under the current ERDF Operational Programme (OP) which, among others, focuses on projects for SMEs and for youth entrepreneurship.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012323/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Προώθηση των ζητημάτων που αφορούν το φύλο σε εποχές οικονομικής κρίσης

Σε μια εποχή λιτότητας, ύφεσης και οικονομικής κρίσης άνευ προηγουμένου, το χάσμα μεταξύ λόγων και έργων διευρύνεται. Ο αριθμός των εμποδίων, όσον αφορά την εφαρμογή της σχετικής νομοθεσίας, αυξάνεται συνεχώς, οι δε πολιτικές που αποσκοπούν στη συμφιλίωση της οικογενειακής και επαγγελματικής ζωής, καθώς και στην προώθηση των ζητημάτων φύλου μέσα από την ενίσχυση του ρόλου των γυναικών, οπισθοδρομούν σε μεγάλο βαθμό τόσο στην Ελλάδα όσο και στην Κύπρο.

1. Γνωρίζει η Επιτροπή για τις δραστικές περικοπές, τις μαζικές απολύσεις και τον περιορισμό πρόσβασης σε παροχές και υπηρεσίες ακόμη και για τις πιο ευπαθείς κατηγορίες γυναικών (γυναίκες με αναπηρίες, ανύπαντρες μητέρες, χήρες, άνεργες, εργαζόμενες μερικής απασχόλησης, πρόσφυγες, κ.λπ.);

2. Ποια μέτρα έλαβε ή προτίθεται να λάβει η Επιτροπή, προκειμένου να βοηθήσει τις χώρες αυτές, και ιδίως τις γυναίκες που ζουν εκεί, να διασφαλίσουν την κοινωνική και οικογενειακή συνοχή τους;

Απάντηση του κ. Andor εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(3 Ιανουαρίου 2014)

1. Η Επιτροπή έχει πλήρη επίγνωση των σοβαρών προβλημάτων στον τομέα της απασχόλησης και στον κοινωνικό τομέα τόσο στην Ελλάδα όσο και στην Κύπρο, ιδίως όσον αφορά τις γυναίκες, και τα έχει επισημάνει επανειλημμένα.

Η έκθεση των εμπειρογνωμόνων σχετικά με τον αντίκτυπο της οικονομικής κρίσης στην κατάσταση των γυναικών και των ανδρών και σχετικά με τις πολιτικές για την ισότητα των φύλων ([1]) καταλήγει στο συμπέρασμα ότι «υπάρχει κίνδυνος η δημοσιονομική εξυγίανση να μειώσει τελικά τόσο τις κοινωνικές διατάξεις όσο και τη σχετική απασχόληση, με επιπτώσεις στην ισότητα των φύλων», με σημαντικές διαφορές μεταξύ των χωρών.

Στην τελευταία έκθεσή της σχετικά με την πρόοδο όσον αφορά την ισότητα μεταξύ γυναικών και ανδρών το 2012, η Επιτροπή περιγράφει εν συντομία την κατάσταση της «οικονομικής ανεξαρτησίας με ίσους όρους κατά τη διάρκεια της κρίσης» ([2]).

Στο πλαίσιο του ευρωπαϊκού εξαμήνου, η Επιτροπή διαπίστωσε ότι στην Κύπρο ([3]) είναι υψηλότερο το ποσοστό των γυναικών άνω των 65 ετών που αντιμετωπίζουν τον κίνδυνο της φτώχειας, υπογράμμισε τη μείωση του ποσοστού απασχόλησης των γυναικών και την ανάγκη να ενταθούν οι προσπάθειες σε ό, τι αφορά τη συμμετοχή των γυναικών στην αγορά εργασίας.

Όσον αφορά την Ελλάδα ([4]), η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή ([5]) επιβεβαίωσε το υψηλό ποσοστό ανεργίας των γυναικών ([6]), και ιδίως των νέων γυναικών ([7]), και επεσήμανε, μεταξύ των προκλήσεων, τις μεγάλες ανισότητες μεταξύ των φύλων όσον αφορά την απασχόληση και την ανεργία.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/130522_crisis_report_en.pdf
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/130530_annual_report_en.pdf
([3]) Έγγραφο εργασίας των υπηρεσιών της Επιτροπής (2013)363 τελικό.
([4]) Έγγραφο εργασίας των υπηρεσιών της Επιτροπής (2013)358 τελικό.
([5]) Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή.
([6]) 28,3% το 2012.
([7]) 63,2% το 2012.

2. Η ισότητα ανδρών και γυναικών αποτελεί βασική αρχή ([8]) για όλα τα ΕΠ ([9]) που συγχρηματοδοτούνται από το ΕΚΤ. Σε αυτό το πλαίσιο, το ΕΚΤ στην Ελλάδα συμβάλλει στην καθιέρωση καλύτερης ισορροπίας μεταξύ της επαγγελματικής και της οικογενειακής ζωής για τις γυναίκες που επιθυμούν να βελτιώσουν την απασχολησιμότητά τους, υποστηρίζει την αναβάθμιση των δεξιοτήτων, των προσόντων και του επιχειρηματικού πνεύματος των άνεργων γυναικών και συγχρηματοδοτεί τη δημιουργία κέντρων για γυναίκες-θύματα ενδοοικογενειακής βίας ([10]). Στην Κύπρο το ΕΚΤ συγχρηματοδότησε ειδικά μέτρα όχι μόνο για τη συμφιλίωση της επαγγελματικής και της οικογενειακής ζωής, αλλά και για την αύξηση της απασχολησιμότητας των γυναικών και τη μείωση των διαφορών στις αμοιβές των δύο φύλων ([11]).

([8]) Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1083/2006 του Συμβουλίου, της 11ης Ιουλίου 2006, περί καθορισμού γενικών διατάξεων για το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης, το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο και το Ταμείο Συνοχής και την κατάργηση του κανονισμού (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1260/1999, ΕΕ L 210 της 31ης Ιουλίου 2006, σ. 16.
Εθνικό στρατηγικό πλαίσιο αναφοράς της Ελλάδας 2007-2013 http://www.espa.gr/elibrary/NSRF%20document_english.pdf

([9]) Επιχειρησιακά προγράμματα.

([10]) www.espa.gr

([11]) www.structuralfunds.org.cy www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sws/sws.nsf/dmlunion_en/dmlunion_en?OpenDocument

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012323/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Promoting gender issues in times of economic crisis

At a time of austerity, recession and incomparable economic crisis, the disparity between rhetoric and practice is increasing. There are a growing number of obstacles to implementing the relevant legislation, and policies aimed at reconciling family and working life and promoting gender issues by empowering women are regressing significantly in both Greece and Cyprus.

1. Is the Commission aware of the dramatic cuts, the massive lay-offs and the restriction of access to benefits and services for even the most vulnerable women (disabled women, single mothers, widows, unemployed women, part-time workers, refugees, etc.)?

2. What practical measures has the Commission taken, or does it intend to take, to help these countries, and in particular their women, to safeguard social and family cohesion?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

1. The Commission is fully aware of the severe employment and social problems in both Greece and Cyprus, especially concerning women, and it has identified that in several occasions.

The Expert's report on the impact of the economic crisis on the situation of women and men and on gender equality policies ([1]) concludes that 'there is a threat that fiscal consolidation may ultimately reduce both the welfare provisions being made and the related employment with associated gender equality impacts', with considerable variations among countries.

In its last Report on Progress on Equality between Women and Men in 2012 ([2]), the Commission gives a short state of play of the 'equal economic independence during the crisis'.

In the context of the European Semester, the Commission identified for Cyprus ([3]) a higher at-risk-of poverty for women over 65, highlighted the decline of the female employment rate and the need to intensify efforts as regards the labour market participation of women.

For Greece ([4]), the EC ([5]) acknowledged the high unemployment rate of women ([6]) , and particularly young women ([7]) and highlighted among the challenges the high gender gaps in employment and unemployment.

2. Equality between men and women is an underlying principle ([8]) of all OPs ([9]) co-financed by the ESF. In this context ESF in Greece contributes to introducing a better balance of work and family life for women wanting to enhance their employability, supports the upgrading of skills, qualifications and entrepreneurial spirit of unemployed women and co-finances the creation of centres for female victims of domestic violence ([10]). In Cyprus ESF has co-financed not only specific measures aimed at the reconciliation of work and family life, but also at increasing female employability and reducing the gender pay gap ([11]).

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/130522_crisis_report_en.pdf
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/130530_annual_report_en.pdf
([3]) SWD(2013) 363 final.
([4]) SWD(2013) 358 final.
([5]) European Commission.
([6]) 28.3% in 2012.
([7]) 63.2% in 2012.
([8]) Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, of 11 July 2006, laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, OJ L 210 of 31 July 2006, § 16.
Greek National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 http://www.espa.gr/elibrary/NSRF%20document_english.pdf
([9]) Operational Programmes.
([10]) www.espa.gr
([11]) www.structuralfunds.org.cy and www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/sws/sws.nsf/dmlunion_en/dmlunion_en?OpenDocument

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012326/13
adresată Comisiei
Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)
(29 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Meserii reglementate

Numărul meseriilor reglementate în statele membre diferă de la o țară la alta și există situații în care, pentru o recunoaștere în totalitate a profesiei, solicitantul este nevoit să dea un examen pentru evaluarea aptitudinilor și echivalarea studiilor făcute în alt stat UE sau trebuie să-și continue studiile și să dea examene de diferență.

În alte state, anumite profesii sunt reglementate de o asociație sau organizație și utilizarea titlului profesional respectiv nu se poate face decât în momentul în care solicitantul respectiv devine membru. Pe de altă parte, în multe state membre există, în prezent, numeroase solicitări de personal pentru asemenea meserii, care nu sunt onorate din cauza lipsei de candidați, o explicație fiind tocmai dificultatea acceptării solicitanților în meserii de acest gen.

În ce măsură are în vedere Comisia o cooperare mai strânsă cu statele membre pentru îmbunătățirea accesului la meseriile reglementate pentru cetățenii UE în alte state membre?

Răspuns dat de dl Barnier în numele Comisiei
(17 decembrie 2013)

Versiunea revizuită a Directivei privind recunoașterea calificărilor profesionale, adoptată de Parlamentul European la 9 octombrie 2013 și de Consiliu, la 15 noiembrie 2013, prevede ca statele membre să se implice într-un exercițiu de evaluare a transparenței și de evaluare reciprocă a profesiilor reglementate. Articolul 59 din noua directivă impune statelor membre să notifice Comisiei toate profesiile pe care le reglementează și să monitorizeze reglementările în vigoare pentru a stabili dacă acestea sunt compatibile cu principiul nediscriminării în funcție de naționalitate sau de locul de reședință, dacă regulamentul este justificat printr-un motiv imperativ de interes general și dacă restricțiile sunt proporționale și adecvate pentru a garanta îndeplinirea obiectivelor pe care le urmăresc. Statele membre trebuie să urmărească ulterior o evaluare reciprocă a reglementărilor lor.

În vederea pregătirii pentru efectuarea acestui exercițiu, Comisia a publicat, la 2 octombrie 2013, o comunicare [1] în cadrul căreia este conturat programul de lucru al acestui exercițiu de evaluare a transparenței și de evaluare reciprocă. Exercițiul de evaluare reciprocă a demarat și este preconizat să se încheie în martie 2016. Comisia va sprijini statele membre pe parcursul acestui exercițiu, care vizează facilitarea accesului la profesii și îmbunătățirea mobilității în UE.

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[1] COM(2013) 676 referitoare la Evaluarea reglementărilor naționale privind accesul la profesii.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012326/13
to the Commission
Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Regulated professions

The number of regulated professions differs from one Member State to another, and there are some cases where people applying for full recognition of their profession must take a test to assess their aptitude and the equivalence of the training they have received in other EU Member States, or where they must continue their studies and then sit an equivalency exam.

In other countries, certain professions are regulated by an association or organisation and the corresponding professional titles may be used only after applicants have become members of the relevant body. Many Member States are currently experiencing considerable staffing shortages in such professions, and the difficulties encountered when accepting applicants in these professions mean that few candidates are available.

To what extent is the Commission planning to cooperate more closely with the Member States in order to improve access to regulated professions for EU citizens in other Member States?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

The revised Directive on Professional Qualifications, adopted by the European Parliament on 9 October 2013 and by the European Council on 15 November 2013, foresees a transparency and mutual evaluation exercise of regulated professions involving all Member States. Article 59 of the new Directive requires Member States to notify to the Commission all the professions they regulate and to screen the regulations in place to assess whether they are compatible with the principle of non-discrimination according to nationality or place of residence, whether the regulation is justified by an overriding reason of general interest and whether the restrictions are proportionate and suitable to secure the objectives they pursue. Member States are then to pursue a mutual evaluation of each other's regulations.

To prepare for this exercise, the Commission has published on 2 October 2013 a communication ([1]) which outlines the work plan for this transparency and mutual evaluation exercise. The mutual evaluation has started and is due to end in March 2016. The Commission will support Member States during this process, which aims at facilitating access to professions and enhancing mobility in the EU.

([1]) COM(2013) 676 on Evaluating national regulations on access to professions.

(Verżjoni Maltija)

Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-012327/13
lill-Kummissjoni
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 ta' Ottubru 2013)

Suġġett: L-illiteriżmu fl-IT fost l-anzjani

L-Uffiċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika f'Malta rrapporta informazzjoni xokkanti li tgħid li 45 % tal-popolazzjoni Maltija ta' bejn il-45 u l-64 sena qatt ma użaw l-internet. Huwa wkoll stmat li 67 % tal-Maltin li għandhom 55 sena jew iktar qatt ma użaw l-internet. Konsegwentement, kważi n-nofs ta' dawk kollha ta' bejn il-45 u l-64 sena u żewġ terzi tal-popolazzjoni anzjana f'Malta huma esklużi mill-benefiċċji tal-attivitajiet online. F'soċjetà fejn l-interazzjoni qiegħda dejjem iktar issir online, dawn qed iħabbtu wiċċhom mal-esklużjoni soċjali. Dawn mhux qed jaffaċċjaw biss il-problema li jitilfu l-kuntatt ma' qraba u ħbieb, iżda qed ikunu wkoll esklużi minn servizzi online oħrajn ta' benefiċċju bħal servizzi online tal-gvern, xiri online u servizzi bankarji bl-internet.

1. Il-Kummissjoni tista' tipprovdi ċifri dwar in-numru ta' nies fl-UE li għandhom 55 sena jew aktar u li qatt ma użaw l-internet?

2. Il-Kummissjoni biħsiebha tniedi xi proġetti mmirati biex inaqqsu d-distakk diġitali bejn iż-żgħażagħ u l-anzjani u biex teduka l-anzjani dwar kif jistgħu jużaw is-servizzi online?

Tweġiba mogħtija minn Ms Kroes f'isem il-Kummissjoni
(17 ta' Diċembru 2013)

L-Onorevoli Membru qed tqajjem il-kwistjoni importanti tal-illitteriżmu informatiku fost l-anzjani. "Biex kull Ewropew ikun diġitali" hija l-viżjoni tal-Aġenda Diġitali tal-Kummissjoni biex tiżgura li ħadd ma jitħalla barra fir-rigward tal-opportunitajiet li joffri l-internet. Il-Klassifika tal-Aġenda Diġitali kontinwament tivvaulta l-progress fir-rigward tal-miri stabiliti. Dejta rilevanti ([1]) turi li l-anzjani tal-etajiet 55-64 u 65-74, 38,8 % u 61,5 % rsipettivament tal-individwi fl-UE qatt ma użaw l-internet. Madankollu, hemm differenzi sinifikanti skont ir-reġjuni tal-Ewropa u r-raġunijiet ivarjaw ukoll (kopertura tal-broadband, nuqqas ta' motivazzjoni biex jużaw l-internet eċċ.).

Sabiex jitnaqqsu d-differenzi diġitali, il-Kummissjoni tappoġġa programmi li jħajru liċ-ċittadini jiksbu l-ħiliet diġitali, u tippromwovi azzjonijiet ta' riċerka u innovazzjoni ([2]) li jindirizzaw il-kwistjonijiet li jridu jitqiesu fit-tfassil ta' teknoloġija u servizzi għal kulħadd, inklużi l-anzjani. L-inklużjoni diġitali se tiġi wkoll indirizzata fil-kuntest tal-Programm ġdid ta' Riċerka u Innovazzjoni Orizzont 2020.

([1]) http://bit.ly/1ba3JCM
([2]) Il-proġett GUIDE pereżempju, żviluppa sett ta' applikazzjonijiet li jistgħu jgħinu liċ-ċittadini anzjani jissimplifikaw il-ħajja tagħhom ta' kuljum, jibqgħu mqabbda man-netwerk soċjali tagħhom u jsaħħu l-għarfien tagħhom dwar id-dinja. http://www.guide-project.eu/.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012327/13
to the Commission
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: IT illiteracy among the elderly

The National Statistics Office in Malta has reported that a staggering 45% of Maltese people aged between 45 and 64 have never used the Internet. It is also estimated that 67% of Maltese people aged 55 and over have never used the Internet. Consequently, nearly half of those aged 45 to 64 and two thirds of Malta's elderly population are excluded from the benefits of online activities. In a society where interaction increasingly takes place online, they face social exclusion. Not only do they face the problem of losing contact with family and friends, but they are also excluded from other beneficial online services such as eGovernment services, online shopping and Internet banking.

1. Can the Commission provide figures for the number of people in the EU aged 55 or over who have never used the Internet?

2. Does the Commission plan to launch any projects aimed at tackling the digital divide between young and old and educating elderly people as to how to make use of online services?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

The Honourable Member raises the important issue of IT illiteracy among the elderly. 'Every European digital' is the vision of the Commission's Digital Agenda to ensure that nobody is left out of the opportunities that the Internet offers. The Digital Agenda Scoreboard is continuously assessing progress with respect to the set targets. Relevant data ([1]) show that regarding elderly people aged 55-64 and 65-74, 38.8% and 61.5% of individuals respectively have never used the Internet in the EU. There are, however, significant differences according to regions of Europe and the reasons also vary (broadband coverage, lack of motivation to use the Internet etc.).

In order to bridge digital gaps the Commission supports programmes stimulating citizens to acquire digital skills, and promotes research and innovation actions ([2]) addressing the set of issues that need to be taken into account when designing technology and services for everyone, including the elderly. Digital inclusion will also be addressed under the new Research and Innovation Programme Horizon 2020.

([1]) http://bit.ly/1ba3JCM
([2]) The GUIDE project for example, developed a set of applications that can help elderly citizens to simplify their daily life, stay connected in their social network and enhance their understanding of the world. http://www.guide-project.eu/

(Verżjoni Maltija)

Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-012329/13
lill-Kummissjoni
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 ta' Ottubru 2013)

Suġġett: L-isport u l-attività fiżika

L-isport, u b'mod iktar ġenerali l-attività fiżika, jgħin lin-nies biex jibqgħu b'saħħithom u jnaqqas il-problema tal-piż żejjed u l-obeżità. Jgħin ukoll fil-każ ta' varjetà ta' kundizzjonijiet kroniċi li jirriżultaw minn nuqqas ta' sport u attività fiżika, bħalma huma l-mard kardjovaskulari u d-djabete, li wkoll saru problema serja ħafna fil-pajjiżi Ewropej.

L-aħħar stħarriġ tal-Ewrobarometru dwar "l-Isport u l-Attività Fiżika", ippubblikat f'Mejju 2010, wera li 40 % taċ-ċittadini tal-UE jagħmlu l-eżerċizzju fiżiku minn tal-inqas darba fil-ġimgħa. Il-Kummissjoni tippromwovi l-attività fiżika permezz ta' politiki differenti.

1. Il-Kummissjoni tista' tipprovdi statistika aġġornata dwar il-progress fil-qasam tal-isport u l-attività fiżika mill-aħħar stħarriġ tal-Ewrobarometru li sar fl-2010 'l hawn?

2. Il-Kummissjoni kif qed tgħin biex iżżid l-attività fiżika u teduka lin-nies dwar il-prevenzjoni tal-mard tal-qalb u djabete?

3. Il-Kummissjoni xi proġetti fit-tul qed tippjana li twettaq bl-għan li l-ġenerazzjoni li jmiss tkun waħda aktar b'saħħitha?

Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sinjura Vassiliou f'isem il-Kummissjoni
(19 ta' Diċembru 2013)

L-istħarriġ ta' segwitu għall-Ewrobarometru tal-2010 dwar l-Isport u l-Attività Fiżika għadu għaddej u r-rapport finali, li se jinkludi d-dejta aġġornata, se jiġi ppubblikat fil-bidu tal-2014.

Il-prevenzjoni tal-mard tal-qalb u d-dijabete tat-tip II prinċipalment tinkiseb bil-promozzjoni ta' dieti bnini u l-attività fiżika. Il-Kummissjoni tiffaċilita l-inizjattivi tal-Istati Membri u l-Partijiet Interessati f'dawn l-oqsma permezz tal-Istrateġija għall-Ewropa dwar kwistjonijiet ta' saħħa marbuta man-Nutriment, il-Piż Żejjed u l-Obeżità ([1]) li fiha l-attività fiżika hija l-qasam ewlieni enfasizzat.

L-esperjenzi reċenti, inkluż in-Netwerk Ewropew ta' Stadji b'Saħħithom li rċevew il-finanzjament mill-UE fil-passat, juru li l-organizzazzjonijiet sportivi jistgħu jagħtu kontribut vitali f'dan ir-rigward. L-Azzjoni Preparatorja fil-qasam tal-Isport 2009 pprovdiet finanzjament għal disa' proġetti ta' attività fiżika li ttejjeb is-saħħa (HEPA), mmexxija minn tipi varji ta' sħubijiet bejn l-għaqdiet tal-isport, is-soċjetà ċivili u l-awtoritajiet pubbliċi. Il-proġetti HEPA ser ikunu eliġibbli għal finanzjament taħt il-kapitolu tal-isport tal-programm Erasmus +.

Fuq terminu twil, il-Kummissjoni temmen bis-sħiħ fi djalogu u koordinazzjoni tal-politika fil-livell tal-UE biex tippromwovi l-politiki tal-HEPA fil-livelli kollha. Għaldaqstant, il-Kummissjoni ppreżentat proposta għal Rakkomandazzjoni tal-Kunsill dwar il-promozzjoni tal-attività fiżika li ttejjeb is-saħħa fis-setturi kollha ([2]), li ġiet adottata mill-Kunsill fis-26 ta' Novembru 2013.

Il-Grupp ta' Livell Għoli għan-Nutrizzjoni u l-Attività Fiżika ([3]) jikkontribwixxi wkoll għall-iżvilupp ta' ħidma fuq azzjonijiet komuni f'dan il-qasam.

L-Onorevoli Membru għandu mnejn li jkun interessat ukoll fit-tweġibiet tal-Kummissjoni lis-Sur Higgins dwar l-obeżità ([4]) (E-698/2012) u lis-Sur Melo dwar l-obeżità fit-tfulija ([5]) (E-07019/2013).

([1]) COM(2007) 279.
([2]) 28.8.2013, COM(2013) 603 finali.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/high_level_group/index_mt.htm
([4]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/mt/parliamentary-questions.html
([5]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/mt/parliamentary-questions.html

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012329/13
to the Commission
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Sport and physical activity

Sport, and physical activity more generally, helps people to stay healthy and reduces the problem of overweight and obesity. It also helps with a variety of chronic conditions resulting from lack of sport and physical activity, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, which have also become a significant problem in European countries.

The last Eurobarometer survey on 'Sport and Physical Activity', published in March 2010, showed that 40% of EU citizens practise physical exercise at least once a week. The Commission promotes physical activity through different policies.

1. Can the Commission provide updated statistics on progress in the area of sport and physical activity since the last Eurobarometer survey in 2010?

2. How is the Commission helping to increase physical activity and educate people about ways to prevent heart disease and diabetes?

3. What long-term projects is the Commission planning with a view to making the next generation healthier?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

The follow-up survey to the 2010 Eurobarometer on Sport and Physical Activity is in progress and the final report, which will include updated data, will be published in early 2014.

The prevention of heart disease and type II diabetes is mainly achieved by promoting healthier diets and physical activity. The Commission facilitates Member States and Stakeholders initiatives in these fields through the strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related Health Issues ([1]) in which physical activity is a key focus area.

Recent experiences, including the European Healthy Stadia Network that received EU funding in the past, show that sport organisations can make a vital contribution in this regard. The Preparatory Action in the field of Sport 2009 provided funding for nine health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA) projects, run by various types of partnerships between sport organisations, civil society and public authorities. HEPA projects will be eligible for funding under the sport chapter of the Erasmus+ programme.

In the long term, the Commission believes firmly in EU-level dialogue and policy coordination to promote HEPA policies at all levels. Consequently, the Commission presented a proposal for a Council Recommendation on promoting health-enhancing physical activity across sectors, ([2]) which was adopted by the Council on 26 November 2013.

The High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity ([3]) also proceeds to developing work on common actions in this area.

The Honourable Member might also be interested in the Commission responses to Mr Higgins on obesity ([4]) (E-698/2012) and Mr Melo on childhood obesity ([5]) (E-07019/2013).

([1]) COM(2007) 279.
([2]) 28.8.2013, COM(2013) 603 final.
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/high_level_group/index_en.htm
([4]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html
([5]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html

(Verżjoni Maltija)

Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-012330/13
lill-Kummissjoni
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 ta' Ottubru 2013)

Suġġett: L-inċidenti tat-traffiku

Skont l-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika f'Malta, fit-tielet kwart tal-2013 ġew irrapportati 3 555 inċident tat-traffiku. Minkejja l-miżuri kontinwi biex jiġi limitat in-numru ta' inċidenti, din iċ-ċifra hi simili ħafna għal dik tas-sena l-oħra. Fl-2011 mietu iktar minn 30 000 persuna fit-toroq tal-UE . Il-Programm tal-Kummissjoni għas-Sikurezza fit-Toroq, li beda fl-2011, għandu l-għan li jnaqqas in-numru ta' persuni li jinqatlu f'inċidenti tat-traffiku fl-UE bejn l-2011 u l-2020.

1. Il-Kummissjoni tista' tipprovdi analiżi interim ibbażata fuq il-proċess ta' monitoraġġ għall-Programm għas-Sikurezza fit-Toroq?

2. X'inhuma l-fehmiet tal-Kummissjoni dwar ir-riżultati li nkisbu s'issa?

3. Il-Kummissjoni tista' tipprovdi analiżi tal-isforzi tal-Istati Membri biex inaqqsu n-numru ta' inċidenti tat-traffiku?

Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Kallas f'isem il-Kummissjoni
(16 ta' Diċembru 2013)

1. Il-Kummissjoni regolarment tiġbor u tippubblika dejta mill-Istati Membri dwar l-aċċidenti sabiex timxi lejn it-twettiq tal-għan li sal-2020 l-imwiet jonqsu bin-nofs. Anaaiżi kwantitattiva tiġi ppubblikata fuq is-sit elettroniku Europa. ([1])

2. Il-Kummissjoni tal-fehma li t-tnaqqis fl-imwiet ta' 43% bejn l-2001 u l-2010 jfisser progress konsiderevoli. Għall-perjodu sussegwenti sa tmiem l-2012, kompla t-tnaqqis fl-imwiet meta mqabbel mal-2010 u kien ta' 11%. Naturalment, huma meħtieġa sforzi ulterjuri fil-livelli varji sabiex tinżamm din it-tendenza.

3. Minbarra l-analiżi statistika msemmija fuq, għaddejja inizjattiva kontinwa biex teżamina l-pjanijiet ta' azzjoni nazzjonali kollha disponibbli tal-Istati Membri għas-sikurezza fit-toroq. L-għan huwa li tistimola l-iskambju ta' prattiki tajba bejn l-Istati Membri u biex jiġu kondiviżi t-tagħlimiet meħuda fir-rigward ta' miżuri tas-sikurezza tat-triq l-aktar effettivi.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/specialist/statistics/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012330/13
to the Commission
Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Traffic accidents

According to the National Statistics Office in Malta, 3 555 traffic accidents were reported in the third quarter of 2013. Despite continuous measures to limit the number of accidents, this figure is very similar to that for the previous year. In 2011, more than 30 000 people died on EU roads. The Commission's Road Safety Programme, which started in 2011, aims to reduce the number of people killed by road accidents in the EU between 2011 and 2020.

1. Can the Commission provide an interim analysis based on the monitoring process for the Road Safety Programme?

2. What are the Commission's views on the results achieved so far?

3. Can the Commission provide an analysis of Member States' efforts to reduce the number of traffic accidents?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(16 December 2013)

1. The Commission regularly collects and publishes accident data from Member States to follow up on the objective to halve the number of fatalities by 2020, and a quantitative analysis is published on the Europa website ([1]).

2. The Commission takes the view that the reduction in the number of fatalities by 43% between 2001 and 2010 constitutes considerable progress. For the subsequent period to the end of 2012, the decrease in fatalities in comparison to 2010 continued further and amounted to 11%. Of course, further efforts are needed at the various levels to maintain this trend.

3. In addition to the statistical analysis mentioned above, there is an ongoing initiative to examine all available national road safety action plans in the Member States. The objective is to stimulate exchange of good practices between the Member States and to share lessons learned as to the most effective road safety measures.

(1) http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/specialist/statistics/index_en.htm

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012332/13
adresată Comisiei
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(29 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Valorile de referință privind aportul de energie pentru copii

Având în vedere avizele științifice emise de Autoritatea Europeană pentru Siguranța Alimentară referitoare la valorile de referință pentru energie în cadrul regimului alimentar ([1]) și la nevoile nutriționale și consumul alimentar al bebelușilor și copiilor ([2]), ambele publicate anul acesta, când va adopta Comisia actele de punere în aplicare în temeiul Regulamentului (UE) nr. 1169/2011 în ceea ce privește valorile de referință privind aportul de energie pentru copii?

Răspuns dat de dl Borg în numele Comisiei
(11 decembrie 2013)

Noul Regulament (UE) nr. 1169/2011 privind informarea consumatorilor cu privire la produsele alimentare ([3]) îi solicită Comisiei să adopte acte de punere în aplicare până la anumite termene. Comisia lucrează la aceste măsuri în mod prioritar. Actul de punere în aplicare privind aportul de referință pentru grupe specifice de populație, inclusiv pentru copii, la care se face referire la articolul 36 alineatul (3) litera (c) din regulament, nu face obiectul unui termen-limită. Prin urmare, acesta nu constituie o prioritate în acest stadiu.

([1]) EFSA, Grupul pentru produse dietetice, nutriție și alergii (NDA), Aviz științific referitor la valorile de referință pentru energie în cadrul regimului alimentar, EFSA Journal 2013; 11(1):3005. Document disponibil online în limba engleză la adresa: www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal.

([2]) EFSA, Grupul pentru produse dietetice, nutriție și alergii (NDA), Aviz științific referitor la nevoile nutriționale și consumul alimentar al bebelușilor și copiilor în Uniunea Europeană, EFSA Journal 2013; 11(10):3408. Document disponibil online în limba engleză la adresa: www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal

([3]) JO L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012332/13
to the Commission
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(29 October 2013)

Subject: Energy intake reference values for children

In view of the scientific opinions issued by the European Food Safety Authority on dietary reference values for energy [1] and nutrient requirements and dietary intakes of infants and young children [2], both published this year, when will the Commission adopt implementing acts under Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 as regards energy intake reference values for children?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(11 December 2013)

The new Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers [3] requires the Commission to adopt implementing acts within set deadlines. The Commission is working on these measures as a matter of priority. The implementing act on reference intakes for specific population groups, such as children, referred to in Article 36(3)(c) of the regulation is not subject to a deadline and therefore it is not considered as a priority at this stage.

(1) EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA), Scientific Opinion on Dietary Reference Values for energy, EFSA Journal 2013; 11(1):3005. Available online: www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal
(2) EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA), Scientific Opinion on nutrient requirements and dietary intakes of infants and young children in the European Union, EFSA Journal 2013; 11(10):3408. Available online: www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal
(3) OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012334/13
to the Commission
Chris Davies (ALDE)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Eco-labelling of fish products

What progress has the Commission made in developing minimum standards for the eco-labelling of fish products? When does it expect to come forward with legislative proposals?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(16 December 2013)

In the framework of the reform of the Common market organisation for fisheries and aquaculture, the European Parliament and the Council set the approach on ecolabelling in Article 36:

'Eco-labelling reporting

After consulting Member States and stakeholders, the Commission shall, by 1 January 2015, submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a feasibility report on options for an eco-label scheme for fishery and aquaculture products, in particular on establishing such a scheme on a Union-wide basis and on setting minimum requirements for the use by Member States of a Union eco-label'.

The Commission will deliver on this reporting obligation before any potential legislative proposal.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012336/13
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(30 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Distorsione della concorrenza per effetto di dismissioni di beni statali

A causa della crisi economica molti Stati membri stanno eseguendo manovre economiche che includono la dismissione di beni e patrimoni statali accumulati in decenni di storia patria.

Si parla di molti beni immobili di proprietà dei demani, ma anche di importanti aziende pubbliche o partecipate con grande rilevanza strategica per il Paese, che spesso fanno emergere forti dubbi riguardo le transazioni economiche per via dei soggetti destinatari e dei prezzi sottomercato realizzati, dando l'impressione di effettuare una svendita del patrimonio comune agli amici. L'Italia ha una lunga storia di dismissioni poco chiare o di dubbia utilità economica se confrontata alle possibilità strategiche che aziende come Montedison, Telecom Italia, Eni, Alitalia, Finmeccanica o Enel hanno o avrebbero portato al sistema Paese.

Può la Commissione riferire:

— se l'immissione sul mercato a condizioni sfavorevoli di asset di importanza tale da creare poche offerte e mercati privati oligopolistici possa essere considerata come distorsione del mercato,

— se sia possibile procedere a un'armonizzazione legislativa per definire limiti rispetto a cui gli asset pubblici e partecipati possano essere considerati privatizzabili?

Risposta di Joaquín Almunia a nome della Commissione
(6 dicembre 2013)

La Commissione non è al corrente di eventuali piani di privatizzazione dell'Italia contrari alle norme sugli aiuti di Stato. Al riguardo va ricordato che i trattati dell'UE sono neutrali in merito alla proprietà pubblica o privata. Spetta esclusivamente agli Stati membri decidere se e quando vendere beni pubblici.

Se vendono beni pubblici, gli Stati membri devono tuttavia conformarsi alla legislazione dell'Unione, comprese la direttiva sulla trasparenza e le norme sugli aiuti di Stato.

In particolare, se gli Stati membri che vendono beni pubblici non si comportano come un «soggetto operante in economia di mercato» la vendita può comportare un aiuto di Stato che, in linea di principio, è vietato a norma del trattato sul funzionamento dell'Unione europea, a meno che non sia autorizzato dalla Commissione (o in determinate circostanze dal Consiglio) sulla base di deroghe specifiche, previste dal trattato. In linea di principio, la concessione di aiuti di Stato può essere esclusa se gli Stati membri adottano una procedura di vendita trasparente, incondizionata e non discriminatoria, come ad esempio una gara pubblica, che dovrebbe massimizzare le entrate dalla vendita.

La giurisprudenza generale e specifica relativa alla questione sarà sintetizzata in una comunicazione della Commissione sulla nozione di aiuto di Stato, che la Commissione intende pubblicare a fini di consultazione nel quadro dell'iniziativa in corso sulla modernizzazione degli aiuti di Stato. Questa comunicazione fornirà alle amministrazioni pubbliche orientamenti più dettagliati sulla questione.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012336/13
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Distortion of competition due to disposal of state assets

As a result of the economic crisis, many Member States are making economic moves such as disposing of state assets and property that form part of the national heritage their countries have built up over decades.

The transactions involve a large amount of government-owned real estate, but also important part- or wholly-owned public companies of major strategic importance for the countries concerned. They have attracted great scepticism due to the type of purchaser involved and the below market value prices, giving the general impression of a sell-off of public assets among friends. Italy has a long history of sell-offs that have either been less than transparent or of dubious economic benefit compared with the strategic potential that companies such as Montedison, Telecom Italia, Eni, Alitalia, Finmeccanica and Enel have or would have had for the country's economy.

Can the Commission state whether placing assets on the market on such unfavourable terms that they attract few offers or conducting private deals within an oligopoly of companies could be viewed as a distortion of the market?

Is it possible to move towards harmonised legislation that would set thresholds for the privatisation of part- or wholly-owned state assets?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(6 December 2013)

The Commission is not aware of any privatisation plans by Italy that would run counter to state aid rules. In that context it should be recalled that the EU Treaties are neutral as regards private or public ownership. It is solely for the Member States to decide whether and when to sell public assets.

However, Member States have to comply with Union legislation, including the Transparency Directive and state aid rules when they sell public assets.

In particular, if Member States do not behave as a 'market economy operator' when they sell public assets, the sale could entail state aid which is in principle prohibited under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, unless authorised by the Commission (or in certain circumstances the Council) on the basis of specific derogations set out in the Treaty. The grant of state aid can normally be excluded if Member States run a transparent, unconditional and non-discriminatory sales procedure such as a public tender, which should lead to a maximisation of revenue from the sale.

The case law and jurisprudence relevant in this context will be summarised in a Commission Notice on the notion of aid, which the Commission intends to publish for consultation soon, as part of the ongoing state aid modernisation initiative. This document should provide public authorities with further guidance on this issue.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012337/13
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(30 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Sviluppo di innovazioni tecnologiche in ambito urbano

Sono state presentate recentemente delle innovazioni tecnologiche in ambito di «smart cities», tra cui il lampione intelligente che adegua la sua luce a seconda delle necessità, risparmia energia e segnala quando la lampada si sta esaurendo.

È stato inoltre messo a punto il tram a onda che raccoglie l'energia direttamente dal terreno e solo dove serve: tale sistema permette ai mezzi pubblici di entrare anche nei centri storici, è resistente contro pioggia e vento perché fornisce l'alimentazione solo a tratti installati nel terreno per cui quando il tram è passato si spengono, riportando la tensione a zero, consentendo di attraversare i «binari» senza nessun rischio. Tale sistema, testato a Napoli, è stato richiesto a Dubai e in Qatar e ha suscitato interesse anche a Taiwan, proprio per l'adattabilità rispetto a fenomeni atmosferici importanti.

È stato presentato anche il progetto di una rete di illuminazione pubblica da cui partono le informazioni per il controllo del traffico, calcolando i flussi e modificando la segnaletica in caso di code o incidenti. Un'unica centrale può, oltre che gestire il wi-fi nelle aree pubbliche e la rete di ricarica delle auto elettriche, ottenere informazioni anche dalle aree di raccolta rifiuti, avvertendo dov'è necessario intervenire se i cassonetti sono pieni.

È stato inoltre messo a punto un sistema sperimentale di monitoraggio delle frane che, attraverso un sistema di raccolta dati in modalità wireless, permette di tenere sotto controllo in maniera remota, grazie alle immagini accolte sul posto e altri dati, la stabilità delle zone più a rischio.

Stante che gli obiettivi prioritari in ambito energetico dell'Unione europea mirano all'efficienza energetica e all'incremento di utilizzo di energie rinnovabili e in termini di sviluppo urbanistico la tendenza è quella di realizzare le «smart cities», può la Commissione riferire se è a conoscenza delle innovazioni tecnologiche suddette e se intende supportare e promuovere l'utilizzo di queste tecnologie nelle città europee?

Risposta di Günther Oettinger a nome della Commissione
(17 dicembre 2013)

Sì, la Commissione ha lanciato il partenariato europeo per l'innovazione sulle città e comunità intelligenti nell'intento di promuovere investimenti in questo tipo di tecnologie, che integrano in ambito urbano innovazioni tecnologiche in materia di energia, trasporti e mobilità e TIC. Questo verrà realizzato nel quadro del programma di ricerca Orizzonte 2020 e tramite un invito a presentare impegni attualmente in fase di elaborazione. Per ulteriori informazioni si rimanda al sito Web ufficiale del partenariato: http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012337/13
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (PPE)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Developing innovative urban technologies

New technologies for 'smart cities' have recently been unveiled, such as smart street lamps which adapt the amount of light according to requirements, as well as saving energy and sending a signal when their bulb is running out.

Trams operating on 'Tramwave' technology have also been developed, whereby power is transmitted at ground level and only to the section requiring power. The system means that this form of public transport can go into city centres and makes it resistant to rain and wind, as the power is supplied by lines laid under the road surface. The lines are only live while the tram is passing over and then they switch off, meaning that the 'tracks' can be crossed safely. The system has been trialled in Naples, while Dubai and Qatar have asked for it. It has also aroused interest in Taiwan, because it is ideally suited to extreme weather conditions.

A project for a public lighting grid has also been unveiled. This sends traffic control information, calculates traffic levels and adjusts signals in the event of tailbacks or accidents. A single control centre can manage Wi-Fi in public spaces and electric car charging stations, and at the same time receive information from waste collection points, sending alert signals when bins are full and need attention.

An experimental landslide monitoring system has also been developed, whereby stability in the areas most at risk can be monitored remotely via a wireless data collection network, using images acquired in situ and other information.

Given that the EU's priority objectives in the energy field are energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energies and given that developments in town planning are tending towards the creation of 'smart cities', is the Commission aware of the new technologies described above and does it intend to support and promote the use of these technologies in European cities?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

Yes. The Commission has launched the European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities (EIP SCC) in order to promote investments in such technologies, integrating technological solutions in the urban context in the areas of energy, transport & mobility and ICT. This will be done through the Horizon 2020 Research Programme and through an Invitation for Commitments that is currently being prepared. More information can be found at the official web page of the EIP SCC: http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-012339/13
an die Kommission
Franz Obermayr (NI)
(30. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Wildschweinbestände und Schweinepest in der EU

Unabhängig von den aktuellen Ereignissen in den GUS-Ländern Russland, Weißrussland und der Ukraine ist die Gefahr der Schweinepest auch aufgrund der weiterhin stark zunehmenden Wildschweinpopulation in Mitteleuropa ein Thema. Da es dem Tier an natürlichen Feinden fehlt und sich seine Futtersituation aufgrund kürzerer Winter stets verbessert, droht das Populationsproblem trotz aller Jagdbemühungen außer Kontrolle zu geraten. Ungeachtet der finanziellen Schäden, wie sie beispielsweise die Landwirte ertragen müssen, steigt damit auch die Gefahr einer katastrophalen Schweinepest-Epidemie in Europa mit unabsehbaren Schäden für Tier und Mensch.

1. Hat die Kommission bereits eine grundlegende Strategie erarbeitet, um das Problem der Wildschweinpopulationen anzugehen? Falls ja, wie ist diese ausgestaltet, wann und wie soll eine allfällige Implementierung erfolgen?

2. Falls nein, könnte hier ein gemeinsames Forum aus Jägern, Tierschützern, Veterinären und Landesvertretern zur Ausarbeitung eines gemeinsamen Vorgehens sinnvoll sein?

3. Hat die Kommission neben der Bekämpfung der ausufernden Wildschweinpopulation auch Ideen zur Eindämmung der damit verbundenen Schweinepestgefahr für die EU?

Antwort von Herrn Borg im Namen der Kommission
(12. Dezember 2013)

1. Nein. Die Kommission hat noch keine grundlegende Strategie erarbeitet, um das Problem der Wildschweinpopulation anzugehen.

2. Es gibt bereits mehrere fachliche Foren, die Meinungen austauschen und Strategien im Bereich Tiergesundheit erörtern. Vor allem der Beratungsausschuss für Tiergesundheit [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/animal_health_advisory_committee_en.htm] erleichtert den Dialog mit den auf europäischer Ebene angesiedelten Vertretungsgremien, damit gewährleistet ist, dass die Ansichten und Bedürfnisse der betroffenen Kreise, darunter die in der Frage genannten, bei den Maßnahmen der Kommission berücksichtigt werden.

3. Der Kommission ist das Risiko, das von der Wildschweinpopulation im Zusammenhang mit der Übertragung der afrikanischen und der klassischen Schweinepest ausgeht, durchaus bekannt. Die geltenden harmonisierten EU-Rechtsvorschriften zur Bekämpfung beider Krankheiten enthalten auch Bestimmungen zur Eindämmung der Infektion bei Wildschweinen und zur Verhinderung der Übertragung auf Hausschweine.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012339/13
to the Commission
Franz Obermayr (NI)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Wild boar and swine fever in the EU

Irrespective of the current events in the CIS countries of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, the risk of swine fever is also an issue on account of the wild boar population in central Europe, which is continuing to soar. As this animal has no natural enemies and the availability of its food is continually improving on account of the shorter winters, the population problem is threatening to spiral out of control, despite all efforts to control it through hunting. Notwithstanding the financial losses that farmers, for example, have to suffer, there is also the increasing danger of a disastrous swine fever epidemic in Europe, with incalculable losses for both animals and people.

1. Has the Commission already drawn up a basic strategy for dealing with the problem of wild boar populations? If so, what form does it take, and when and how is it to be implemented, if at all?

2. If not, would a joint forum for the development of a common approach, comprising hunters, animal welfare organisations, veterinary surgeons and national representatives, be appropriate in this regard?

3. In addition to controlling the soaring wild boar population, does the Commission also have any ideas for containing the associated risk of swine fever for the EU?

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

1. No. The Commission has not drawn up any basic strategy for dealing with the problem of the wild boar population.

2. Several technical fora are already in place to exchange views and to discuss strategies inthe field of animal health. In particular, the Animal Health Advisory Committee [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/animal_health_advisory_committee_en.htm] facilitates dialogue with representative European bodies in order to ensure that Commission's policies take into account the views and needs of the relevant stakeholders, including those indicated in the question.

3. The Commission is fully aware of the risk posed by the wild boar population in the transmission of African and classical swine fever. Indeed the EU harmonised legislation currently in place for the control of both diseases include also provisions aimed at containing the infection in the wild boar and to prevent its transmission to domestic pigs.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-012340/13
an die Kommission
Franz Obermayr (NI)
(30. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Neue Medizinprodukteverordnung — Zulassungssystem — Patientensicherheit

Im Ausschuss für Umwelt und Gesundheit des Europäischen Parlamentes wurde kürzlich ein neuer Entwurf der Medizinproduktverordnung diskutiert. Verbände wie „SPECTARIS" (Deutscher Industrieverband für optische, medizinische und mechatronische Technologien) und „ZVEI" (Zentralverband Elektrotechnik- und Elektronikindustrie e. V.) sehen die neuen Vorschläge äußerst kritisch. Nicht nur die Wachstumschancen der Gesundheitswirtschaft würden mit diesem Vorschlag gefährdet, sondern auch die Patientensicherheit. Bei einer Änderung müssten Patienten damit rechnen, dass lebensrettende Medizinprodukte erst nach einer mehrjährigen Verzögerung am Markt zur Anwendung kommen dürften.

1. Wie steht die Kommission zu diesen Vorwürfen?

2. Welche Folgen haben die Neuerungen für Patienten, die in ihrer Behandlung auf Medikamente, die unter den Anwendungsbereich der neuen Verordnung fallen, angewiesen sind?

3. Welche Folgen hat die Novelle für heimische Pharmaunternehmen?

4. Der Vorschlag sieht vor, dass zahlreiche Medizinprodukte einer zusätzlichen Überprüfung unterzogen werden sollen. Für welche Produkte ist das Verfahren konkret vorgesehen?

5. Die geplante Regelung stuft zahlreiche Medizinprodukte in höhere Risikoklassen ein. Nach welchen Kriterien erfolgt diese Klassifizierung?

6. Das bestehende Zulassungssystem ist im internationalen Vergleich eines der sichersten der Welt und hat bisher ein hohes Schutzniveau auf dem europäischen Markt gewährleistet. Worin besteht die Notwendigkeit einer Neuregelung?

Antwort von Neven Mimica im Namen der Kommission
(19. Dezember 2013)

Die Kommission hat im September 2012, nach eingehender Analyse und umfangreichen öffentlichen Konsultationen, die stichhaltige Gründe für eine Überarbeitung ergaben, Vorschläge zur Überarbeitung der bestehenden Rechtsvorschriften für Medizinprodukte und In-vitro-Diagnostika vorgelegt. Zu diesen Gründen zählen z. B. die Einführung neuer Produkte, die Entwicklung der Rechtsvorschriften auf internationaler Ebene, aber auch die Erfahrungen mit der unterschiedlichen Anwendung des bestehenden Rechtsrahmens in den Mitgliedstaaten. Probleme mit Medizinprodukten, wie vor kurzem mit den PIP-Brustimplantaten, haben diese Analyse bestätigt und Schwächen bei der Aufsicht über die benannten Stellen und die Hersteller sowie bei der Rückverfolgbarkeit von Produkten offenbart. Die Vorschläge der Kommission vom September 2012 zielen auf eine höhere Patientensicherheit ab, insbesondere durch bessere Überwachung vor und nach dem Inverkehrbringen, und sollen gleichzeitig die rasche Verfügbarkeit innovativer Produkte sicherstellen und die Innovationskraft der Medizinprodukte-Industrie erhalten.

Die beiden Vorschläge werden derzeit im Rat und im Europäischen Parlaments erörtert; die interinstitutionellen Verhandlungen sollen nächstes Jahr beginnen. In diesem Zusammenhang werden die verschiedenen Elemente der Kommissionsvorschläge, die auf der Plenartagung des Parlaments vom 22. Oktober 2013 angenommenen Abänderungen sowie die Stellungnahmen des Rates diskutiert. Da die vom Ausschuss für Umwelt und Gesundheit des Europäischen Parlaments vorgeschlagenen Abänderungen nicht von der Kommission ausgehen, kann sie zu den konkreten Fragen des Herrn Abgeordneten zu diesen Abänderungen nicht Stellung nehmen.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012340/13
to the Commission
Franz Obermayr (NI)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: New Medical Devices Regulation — approval system — patient safety

Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety recently discussed a new draft Medical Devices Regulation. Associations like SPECTARIS (German industry association for optical, medical and mechano-electronic technologies) and ZVEI (Zentralverband Elektrotechnik- und Elektronikindustrie e. V. — Association of the Electrical Engineering and Electronics Industry) are extremely critical of the new proposals. Not only does this proposal jeopardise the health sector's opportunities for growth, it also puts patient safety at risk. If this amendment goes ahead, patients will have to expect life-saving medical devices to be allowed onto the market for use only after a delay of several years.

1. What is the Commission's view of these accusations?

2. What consequences will the amendments have for patients whose treatment is dependent on medicines that fall within the area of application of the new Regulation?

3. What consequences will the new Regulation have for domestic pharmaceutical companies?

4. The proposal provides for additional testing for numerous medical devices. For which devices is this procedure specifically provided for?

5. The planned Regulation places numerous medical devices in higher risk classes. What criteria were used for this classification?

6. By international standards, the existing approval system is one of the safest in the world and up to now has ensured a high level of protection on the European market. Why are new rules necessary?

Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

The Commission presented proposals to revise the existing legislation on medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics in September 2012 after thorough analysis and in-depth public consultations both of which pointed to compelling reasons for such revision. This included e.g. the emergence of new products, regulatory developments at the international level, but also experience with diverging application of the existing framework in the Member States. Recent problems with medical devices such as the PIP breast implants corroborated this analysis and further highlighted weaknesses in the oversight of notified bodies and of manufacturers, as well as in the traceability of devices. The Commission proposals of September 2012 aim at increasing patient safety in particular through better pre- and post-market surveillance while at the same time ensuring rapid availability of innovative devices and preserving the innovative strength of medical device industry.

The two proposals are currently subject to discussions in the Council and the Parliament and the interinstitutional negotiations are envisaged to start next year. The different elements of the Commission proposals, the amendments voted by the Parliament plenary on 22 October 2013, as well as the positions of the Council, will be discussed in this context. Considering that the amendments proposed by the Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety do not originate from the Commission, it is not in a position to answer the detailed questions of the Honourable Member on these amendments.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-012341/13
aan de Commissie
Patricia van der Kammen (NI)
(30 oktober 2013)

Betreft: Europese Commissie wil het watergebruik bepalen bij het doorspoelen van een toilet

Volgens mediaberichtgeving ([1]) en zoals ook terug te vinden in een conceptrapport van het Institute for Prospective Technological Studies ([2]) is de Europese Commissie van plan het watergebruik bij het doorspoelen van een toilet te gaan reguleren.

1. Is de Commissie op de hoogte van het conceptrapport?

2. Wat denkt de Europese Commissie met deze bureaucratische idioterie te bereiken?

3. Hoe verhoudt dit onderwerp zich met de uitspraak van Baroso in de staat van de Unie 2013: „The EU-executive needs to be big on big things and smaller on smaller things."

4. Is de Europese Commissie het met de PVV eens dat het te absurd voor woorden is dat de Commissie zich keer op keer tot drie cijfers achter de komma bemoeit met produktaanbod en consumentenkeuzes? Zo nee, waarom niet? Welke kwalificatie heeft de Commissie dan wel voor haar doorgeslagen betutteling?

5. Dit is het zoveelste voorbeeld van ambtelijke bezigheidstherapie oftewel volstrekt overbodige regelgeving op kosten van de belastingbetaler. Wanneer houdt de Commissie de eer aan zichzelf en stapt zij op?

Antwoord van dhr. Potočnik namens de Commissie
(6 januari 2014)

De Commissie nodigt de geachte afgevaardigde uit om het voorstel zelf te lezen, in plaats van bepaalde berichten in de media; zij zal dan onmiddellijk gerustgesteld worden dat de Commissie geen plannen heeft om de hoeveelheid water die bij het doorspoelen van toiletten verbruikt wordt te reglementeren. Bij de maatregel in kwestie gaat het om een label op basis van vrijwilligheid, dat nuttige informatie biedt aan consumenten die een meer eco-efficiënt product willen kopen dat minder water verbruikt, waardoor zowel de milieu-effecten als de waterrekening voor huishoudens beperkt kunnen worden.

De Commissie is op de hoogte van het technische rapport waar de geachte afgevaardigde naar verwijst, dat is namelijk opgesteld door haar eigen Institute for Prospective Technological Studies. Dit onderzoek leverde belangrijke bevindingen op, die geleid hebben tot het besluit om het vrijwillige label in te voeren.

Het onderzoek toont aan dat het installeren van waterbesparende toiletten in particuliere woningen een gemiddeld huishouden een besparing van ongeveer 6 600 liter water (van drinkwaterkwaliteit) per jaar zou opleveren.

Fabrikanten kunnen een EU-Ecolabel voor hun producten aanvragen als zij die als milieuvriendelijk willen aanprijzen. Het label biedt consumenten, bedrijven en overheidsinstanties overal in de EU de zekerheid dat zij groene producten kopen. Er zijn momenteel EU-Ecolabelcriteria voor 31 groepen producten en het label wordt aangebracht op meer dan 17 000 producten. De cumulatieve voordelen zijn dus zeker niet onbeduidend, en het feit dat ondernemingen het Ecolabel op grote schaal gebruiken, wijst erop dat de invoering daarvan geen zinloos initiatief of tijdverspilling was.

Desalniettemin heeft de Commissie eerder al aangekondigd dat in 2014 een „gezonderegelgevingstoetsing" zal worden verricht met betrekking tot Ecolabels, om na te gaan of die nog steeds aan het gestelde doel beantwoorden.

([1]) http://m.euractiv.com/details.php?aid=531374.
([2]) http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/toilets/docs/Technical_report_Ecolabel_May_2013a_revised_final.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012341/13
to the Commission
Patricia van der Kammen (NI)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Commission's plans to regulate water quantities used for toilet flushing

According to media reports ([1]) as well as a technical report by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies ([2]), the Commission plans to regulate the quantity of water used when flushing a toilet.

1. Is the Commission aware of this technical report?

2. What does the Commission hope to achieve with this bureaucratic idiocy?

3. How can this be reconciled with Barroso's State of the Union address when he said that 'The EU executive needs to be big on big things and smaller on smaller things'?

4. Does the Commission agree with the Dutch Party for Freedom that its obsession with regulating product supply and consumer choice to three decimal places is too silly for words? If not, why not? What qualification does the Commission then have for its excessive nit-picking?

5. This is the umpteenth example we have seen of 'occupational therapy for civil servants' or wholly superfluous regulation at the taxpayer's expense. When will the Commission be so kind as to resign?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(6 January 2014)

A reading of the Commission proposal, rather than certain media reports, would immediately reassure the Honourable Member that the Commission has no plans to regulate the quantity of water used when flushing a toilet. The measure in question is a voluntary label, providing useful information to consumers who wish to purchase a more eco-efficient product that uses less water, reducing its environmental impact as well as household water bills.

The Commission is fully aware of the technical report referred to by the Honourable Member as it was carried out by its own Institute for Prospective Technological Studies. This study provided an important evidence base for the decision for a voluntary label.

The study demonstrates that the installation of water-saving toilets in domestic buildings would bring for an average household water savings of approximately 6,600 litres of (drinking quality) water per year.

Companies may choose to apply for an EU Ecolabel for their products when they intend to market them as environmentally friendly. The label helps consumers, business and public authorities to reliably identify and purchase green products across the EU market if they so wish. EU Ecolabel criteria currently exist for 31 product groups and the label is used by companies on more than 17,000 products in the EU. The cumulative benefits are therefore far from being small, and such widespread adoption of the Ecolabel by companies suggests that there development is not a superfluous or wasteful exercise.

Nevertheless, the Commission has already announced a regulatory fitness check on Ecolabels in 2014 to systematically check their continued effectiveness.

([1]) http://m.euractiv.com/details.php?aid=531374
([2]) http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/toilets/docs/Technical_report_Ecolabel_May_2013a_revised_final.pdf

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta P-012343/13
alla Commissione
Erminia Mazzoni (PPE)
(30 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Istituzione dell'Agenzia per la coesione territoriale in Italia

Visto:

lo stato dei negoziati, in corso da oltre un anno, sui nuovi regolamenti sulla politica di coesione per il periodo 2014-2020 e, in particolare, i principi di partenariato e governance multilivello di cui essi sono impregnati.

Considerando:

che il codice di condotta che la Commissione europea dovrà adottare tramite atto delegato farà da guida agli Stati membri nell'attuazione concreta del principio di partenariato;

che il principio della governance multilivello si dovrebbe tradurre in un reale coinvolgimento delle autorità regionali e locali sia nella fase di definizione che nelle fasi di attuazione e gestione dei programmi, al fine di garantire la maggiore vicinanza possibile ai cittadini e ai territori destinatari delle politiche di coesione;

che la costituenda Agenzia per la coesione territoriale in Italia dovrebbe svolgere funzioni di «raccordo con le amministrazioni statali e regionali competenti ai fini della predisposizione di proposte di programmazione», «monitoraggio sistematico e continuo dei programmi operativi», «sostegno e assistenza tecnica alle amministrazioni che gestiscono i programmi»;

che l'Agenzia «può assumere le funzioni dirette di autorità di gestione di programmi» ed esercitare poteri sostitutivi in casi di «inerzia o inadempimento» delle amministrazioni titolari.

Si chiede alla Commissione:

1. se non ritenga che l'istituzione dell'Agenzia per la coesione territoriale, così come prospettata, non rischi di minare l'applicazione concreta dei principi fondamentali di partenariato e governance multilivello, che sono alla base della politica di coesione post-2013;

2. come valuti i poteri sostitutivi che l'Agenzia assumerebbe rispetto a quelli delle autorità di gestione regionali, considerando che essa è espressione della Presidenza del Consiglio e, quindi, del Governo centrale;

3. se non ritenga che l'Agenzia rischi di tradursi in un organo «superfluo» ed eccessivamente «accentratore», che avrebbe come unico risultato l'utilizzo del fondo per l'assistenza tecnica al fine del pagamento degli stipendi.

Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione
(2 dicembre 2013)

La Commissione non vede alcun elemento a sostegno delle riserve espresse dall'onorevole parlamentare per quanto riguarda le tre questioni sollevate nella sua interrogazione. In particolare l'Agenzia di coesione territoriale, di recente istituzione, non sembra essere in contrasto con l'articolo 5 del regolamento sulle disposizioni comuni in tema di partenariato e di governance multilivello, in base al quale ciascuno Stato membro organizza un partenariato con le competenti autorità regionali e locali, conformemente al rispettivo quadro istituzionale e giuridico.

A tale riguardo il testo della legge indica esplicitamente che l'Agenzia opererà sempre nel pieno rispetto delle competenze delle amministrazioni responsabili dei programmi e delle autorità di gestione interessate. Lo statuto dell'Agenzia, che verrà adottato entro marzo 2014, sarà inoltre approvato solo previo parere della «Conferenza permanente per i rapporti tra lo Stato, le regioni e le province autonome di Trento e di Bolzano», sede in cui vengono affrontate tutte le questioni di interesse regionale e locale legate all'UE.

Nel periodo attuale vari programmi regionali in Italia hanno sono stati oggetto di gravi problemi di gestione, al punto da rendere necessaria la costituzione di apposite task force tra le regioni, il Ministero preposto al coordinamento e la Commissione. In un gran numero di casi i sistemi di audit e di controllo dei programmi regionali non hanno inoltre funzionato correttamente. Stante quanto sopra la Commissione auspicherebbe di assistere, in futuro, ad un miglioramento del coordinamento e della sorveglianza a livello centrale sulle attività svolte dalle autorità di gestione e di audit.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012343/13
to the Commission
Erminia Mazzoni (PPE)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Setting up of a territorial cohesion agency in Italy

Negotiations have been in progress for more than a year on the new cohesion policy regulations for the period 2014-2012, which are based on the principles of partnership and multi-level governance.

The Commission is to adopt, by means of a delegated act, a code of conduct on partnership that will provide Member States with guidance on how to implement the partnership principle.

The multi-level governance principle is intended to give regional and local authorities a real say in both the planning of programmes and their implementation and management, thus helping to anchor the whole process as firmly as possible in the communities and areas that are the target of cohesion policy.

The territorial cohesion agency that is to be set up in Italy has been set the tasks of liaising with the relevant central and regional government authorities in connection with the submission of programming proposals, of monitoring all operational programmes and of providing technical assistance and support to programmes management authorities.

Furthermore, the agency may act directly as a programme management authority and may also act in the place of programme management authorities should they fail to act or to meet their obligations.

1. Would the Commission not agree that the setting up of a territorial cohesion agency along the above lines could hamper the practical implementation of the principles of partnership and multi-level governance on which post-2013 cohesion policy is to be based?

2. What view does it take of the fact that the agency would be able to act in the place of regional management authorities, given that it will be answerable to the prime minister's office, i.e. central government?

3. Would it not agree that the agency could prove superfluous and could over-centralise operations in this area, resulting in technical assistance funding being spent on salaries rather than where it is most needed?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(2 December 2013)

The Commission does not see any element supporting the reservations expressed by the Honorable Member with respect to the three issues raised in her question. In particular, the newly established Agency for territorial cohesion does not seem to be in contradiction with the provisions of Article 5 of the Common Provisions Regulations on partnership and multilevel governance which states that each Member State will organise a partnership with the competent and regional and local authorities in accordance with their institutional and legal frameworks.

In this respect, the text of the law explicitly indicates that the agency will always operate fully respecting the competences of the administrations responsible for the programmes and the relevant managing authorities. Moreover, the statute of the agency, to be adopted by March 2014, will be approved only after having obtained the opinion of the 'Conferenza permanente per i rapporti tra lo Stato, le regioni e le province autonome di Trento e di Bolzano' which is the venue where all EU matters of relevance at regional and local level are addressed.

In the current period, several regional programmes in Italy have incurred serious management problems, to the extent that the establishment of specific task forces between the regions, the coordinating ministry and Commission was deemed necessary. Also, in a number of instances, audit and control systems of regional programmes were not functioning properly. In view of these experiences, the Commission would welcome for the future stronger coordination and monitoring at central level of the work of management and audit authorities.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012344/13
to the Commission
Jim Higgins (PPE)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Irish national car test (NCT) legislation

Does the Commission have a view on whether it is appropriate for a vehicle which has been pre-declared off the road in accordance with domestic statutory legislation to then be issued with a vehicle roadworthiness certificate by reference to the date of registration rather than the date of testing?

Regarding whether or not to correct this position, Members States may use Article 4.2 of Directive 2009/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council to put in place special provisions for vehicles which are temporarily withdrawn from circulation in order to correct this anomaly so that it applies to cars which are pre-declared off the road.

Has the Irish Government been in contact with the Commission regarding this matter in order to detail those engagements?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(16 December 2013)

The Commission takes the view that it is consistent with the provisions of Directive 2009/40/EC on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers ([1]) to link the date of roadworthiness tests to the date of first registration or first use of the vehicle concerned also in cases when the vehicle has temporarily been de-registered from the use on public roads.

According to Article 4.2 of the directive to which the Honourable Member refers, Member States may exempt from roadworthiness testing vehicles while being temporarily withdrawn from circulation. The Commission has not been in contact with the Irish Government on this matter.

([1]) OJ L 141, 6.6.2009.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012345/13
to the Commission
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: State aid for proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant

On 21 October 2013, the UK Government announced an agreement with Électricité de France (EDF) on the key terms of a proposed investment contract to build a new nuclear power plant in South-West England: Hinkley Point C.

One of these terms is that the UK Government guarantees a 'strike price' of GBP 92.50/MWh (indexed to the Consumer Price Index) for electricity produced over the first 35 years of the plant's life.

This agreement appears to have all the features of state aid: there has been an intervention through State resources (as the UK Government is guaranteeing the strike price with public funds), the intervention gives EDF a competitive advantage on a selective basis, competition has therefore been distorted, and the intervention is likely to affect trade between Member States.

Given that Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) contains a general prohibition on state aid,

1. could the Commission confirm that the UK Government has applied to the Commission under the notification procedure in relation to this agreement?

2. could the Commission also confirm that it will open an in-depth investigation into this agreement, which gives EDF a serious advantage over its competitors in the UK energy market?

Question for written answer P-012346/13
to the Commission
Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: State aid for proposed Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant

On 21 October 2013, the UK Government announced an agreement with Électricité de France (EDF) on the key terms of a proposed investment contract to build a new nuclear power plant in South-West England: Hinkley Point C.

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Given that Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) contains a general prohibition on state aid,

1. could the Commission confirm that the UK Government has applied to the Commission under the notification procedure in relation to this agreement?

2. could the Commission also confirm that it will open an in-depth investigation into this agreement, which gives EDF a serious advantage over its competitors in the UK energy market?

Joint answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(29 November 2013)

The UK notified a case of potential state aid to nuclear energy, in particular in relation to a nuclear plant to be built at Hinkley point C, on 22 October 2013.

The Commission is currently assessing the notification and at this stage can neither confirm nor rule out that the measure may require an in-depth investigation.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012348/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(30 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Open Knowledge Foundation

Σύμφωνα με έκθεση που δημοσίευσε πρόσφατα το Open Knowledge Foundation (Ίδρυμα για την Ανοικτή Γνώση), πολλά κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ βρίσκονται σε χαμηλές θέσεις στην σχετική κατάταξη περί ανοικτών δεδομένων του 2013. Συγκεκριμένα δε, η Κύπρος βρίσκεται στις τελευταίες θέσεις της κατάταξης (70ή), γεγονός που παραπέμπει σε σοβαρό πρόβλημα όσον αφορά την δυνατότητα πρόσβασης των πολιτών στα δημόσια δεδομένα και στην ενημέρωση. Άλλα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ όπως το Βέλγιο (59ο), η Λιθουανία (56η), η Ρουμανία (45η) η Σλοβακία (43η) και η Γερμανία (39η) βρίσκονται επίσης σε πολύ χαμηλές θέσεις, γεγονός που παραπέμπει σε σοβαρό πρόβλημα.

Τούτων δοθέντων, παρακαλείται η Επιτροπή να απαντήσει στα εξής ερωτήματα:

1. Έχει υπόψη της τα αποτελέσματα της προαναφερθείσης έρευνας;

2. Συμφωνεί με τα ευρήματα της έρευνας;

3. Σε ποιες ενέργειες προτίθεται να προβεί προκειμένου να βελτιωθεί η δυνατότητα πρόσβασης στην πληροφόρηση των ευρωπαίων πολιτών σε ολόκληρη την Ευρώπη;

Απάντηση της κ. Kroes εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(9 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

Η Επιτροπή παρακολουθεί εκ του σύνεγγυς το έργο του Open Knowledge Foundation (Ίδρυμα για την Ανοικτή Γνώση) και έχει λάβει γνώση της κατάταξης περί ανοικτών δεδομένων του 2013. Η κατάταξη αυτή είναι μία μόνο μεταξύ περισσοτέρων πηγών πληροφοριών σχετικά με την εξέλιξη της πολιτικής στον τομέα των ανοικτών δεδομένων στα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ.

Ο τομέας των ανοικτών δεδομένων έχει δύο κύριες πτυχές: την κυβερνητική διαφάνεια και τις οικονομικές ευκαιρίες που προκύπτουν από την περαιτέρω χρήση κυβερνητικών πληροφοριών. Σύμφωνα με τις αρμοδιότητες που ανατίθενται από τις Συνθήκες της ΕΕ, το έργο της Επιτροπής εστιάζεται στην προώθηση του δεύτερου στοιχείου, των οικονομικών ευκαιριών.

Η Επιτροπή χρησιμοποιεί διαφορετικό πίνακα αποτελεσμάτων για να εξετάσει την κατάσταση στα κράτη μέλη, τον πίνακα αποτελεσμάτων PSI (πληροφορίες του δημόσιου τομέα) (http://epsiplatform.eu/content/european-psi-scoreboard). Ο εν λόγω πίνακας εκπονήθηκε από εξωτερικό ανάδοχο με σκοπό μετρήσεις όσον αφορά το καθεστώς των ανοικτών δεδομένων και την περαιτέρω χρήση πληροφοριών του δημόσιου τομέα (κυβερνητικά δεδομένα).

Η Επιτροπή ανέλαβε ή αναλαμβάνει τις ακόλουθες πρωτοβουλίες για τη διευκόλυνση της περαιτέρω χρήσης κυβερνητικών πληροφοριών από όλους τους πολίτες της ΕΕ: πρόσφατα αναθεωρήθηκε το νομοθετικό πλαίσιο με την έκδοση της οδηγίας 2013/37/ΕΕ για την τροποποίηση της οδηγίας 2003/98/ΕΚ σχετικά με την περαιτέρω χρήση πληροφοριών του δημόσιου τομέα. Τούτο θα συμβάλει στην περαιτέρω χρησιμοποίηση πολύ περισσότερων κυβερνητικών πληροφοριών και στη μείωση των τελών που συνδέονται με την περαιτέρω χρησιμοποίηση. Καταρτίζονται μη δεσμευτικές κατευθυντήριες γραμμές προς τα κράτη μέλη σχετικά με διάφορες πτυχές της οδηγίας. Η Επιτροπή παρέχει υπηρεσίες που θα συνδράμουν τα κράτη μέλη με τη δημοσίευση κυβερνητικών πληροφοριών σε ιστότοπους δικτυακών πυλών για ανοικτά δεδομένα και εργάζεται για την ενσωμάτωση του περιεχομένου τέτοιων δικτυακών πυλών ανοικτών δεδομένων σε μια πανευρωπαϊκή υποδομή ψηφιακών υπηρεσιών χρηματοδοτούμενη από το πρόγραμμα που αφορά τη Διευκόλυνση «Συνδέοντας την Ευρώπη».

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012348/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Open Knowledge Foundation

According to a recent report published by the Open Knowledge Foundation, many EU Member States occupy low positions in the 2013 Open Data Index. More specifically, Cyprus is at the bottom of the index in 70th place, indicating that there is a serious problem there with regard to access to public data and information. Other EU Member States such as Belgium (59th place), Lithuania (56th place), Romania (45th place) Slovakia (43rd place) and Germany (39th place) are also ranked very low, once again indicating a serious problem.

The Commission is therefore asked:

1. If it is aware of the results of the index?

2. If it agrees with the index's findings?

3. What measures it intends to take in order to improve access to information for all EU citizens?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(9 December 2013)

The Commission is following the work of the Open Knowledge Foundation very closely and has seen the 2013 Open Data Index. It is one source of information among others about the evolution of policy in relation to Open Data in the EU Member States.

Open Data has two main aspects: Government transparency and economic opportunities resulting from reuse of government-held information. In line with the powers conferred in the EU Treaties, the Commission's work focuses on fostering the second element, the economic opportunities.

The Commission uses a different scoreboard in order to examine the state of play in the Member States, the PSI Scoreboard (http://epsiplatform.eu/content/european-psi-scoreboard). It has been developed by an external contractor with the purpose of measuring the status of Open Data and reuse of public sector information (government-held data).

The Commission has taken or is taking the following initiatives to facilitate reuse of government-held information to all EU citizens: Most recently, the legislative framework has been revised with the adoption of Directive 2013/37/EU revising Directive 2003/98/EC on reuse of public sector information. It will help to make much more government-held information reusable and lower charges attached to reuse. Non-binding guidelines to Member States on several aspects of the directive are being prepared. The Commission has procured services that shall help Member States with publishing government-held information on Open Data Portal websites and works towards integrating content from such Open Data Portals in a pan-European digital service infrastructure funded by the Connecting Europe Facility programme.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012349/13
alla Commissione
Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)
(30 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Popolazione di topi in Italia

Una delle riviste settimanali di informazione più seguite in Italia ha negli scorsi giorni presentato dei dati preoccupanti sulla popolazione di topi nelle maggiori città italiane. I roditori sarebbero 15 milioni a Roma, 13 milioni a Milano e 10 milioni a Napoli; in tutto il territorio nazionale sono 500 milioni e consumano 20 milioni di tonnellate di cibo l'anno. Lo stesso articolo riporta la testimonianza di veterinari secondo cui la maggior parte di questi topi sarebbe malata di peste, che fortunatamente non si trasmette all'uomo a causa della mancata promiscuità con gli stessi topi e con le pulci che trasmettono la malattia. Tuttavia le disperate condizioni economiche di un sempre maggior numero di persone, costrette spesso a dormire per strada e a cibarsi dai cassonetti dell'immondizia e aventi scarse possibilità in termini di cura delle malattie ed igiene personale, potrebbero favorire nuovi contagi.

Può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se è al corrente di questi numeri e può confermarli;

2. in che modo monitora o invita gli Stati membri a monitorare la popolazione di roditori;

3. quali misure e quali strumenti ha adottato o ha intenzione di adottare per diminuire il rischio di un eventuale contagio di peste o altre malattie trasmissibili dai topi;

4. se ritiene che sia possibile conciliare le misure di controllo veterinario e delle nascite sui roditori presenti nelle città europee con il rispetto del benessere degli animali?

Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione
(20 dicembre 2013)

In applicazione delle norme sulla sussidiarietà la Commissione non raccoglie né monitora dati sulle popolazioni murine negli Stati membri.

Per gli stessi motivi la Commissione non ha per il momento in previsione l'attuazione di misure speciali per contrastare il rischio di malattie trasmissibili dalle specie murine.

La legislazione dell'UE sul benessere degli animali non si estende alle popolazioni murine selvatiche.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012349/13
to the Commission
Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Rat population in Italy

One of Italy's most popular weekly magazines recently published worrying figures concerning the number of rats found in Italy's largest cities. According to the magazine, there are 15 million rats in Rome, 13 million in Milan and 10 million in Naples. Across the country, there are 500 million rats which together eat 20 million tonnes of food each year. The article also quotes veterinarians who believe that most of the rats are infected with the plague. People are not at risk, fortunately, because they hardly ever come into contact with the rats themselves or the fleas which transmit the disease. Nonetheless, the fact that ever-increasing numbers of Italians are in dire financial straits, and that many of them are forced to sleep on the streets, rummage through bins for food and have little chance of receiving medical attention and maintaining proper personal hygiene, could increase the risk of new infections.

1. Is the Commission aware of these statistics? Can it confirm the accuracy of the data?

2. How does it monitor the size of the rodent population and/or request that the Member States do so?

3. What measures and/or instruments has the Commission implemented or does it intend to implement in order to reduce the risk of a possible outbreak of the plague or other diseases that can be transmitted by rats?

4. Does the Commission believe that it is possible to combine veterinary checks and measures to control the rodent population in European cities with animal welfare?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(20 December 2013)

Applying the rules of subsidiarity, the Commission does not keep or monitor data on the rat populations in the Member States.

For the same reason,the Commission for the moment does not intend to implement special measures to control the risk related to disease that can be transmitted by rats.

EU animal welfare legislation does not cover wild rats.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012351/13
to the Commission
Daniel Hannan (ECR)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Cyprus Memorandum of Understanding

The Cyprus bailout Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) states the following:

'By [Q4-2014], eliminate the title deed issuance backlog to less than 2 000 cases of immovable property sales contracts with title deed issuance pending for more than one year. The authorities will enhance cooperation with the financial sector to ensure the swift clearing of encumbrances on title deeds to be transferred to purchasers of immovable property, and implement guaranteed timeframes for the issuance of building certificates and title deeds; publish quarterly progress reviews of the issuance of building and planning permits, certificates, and title deeds, as well as title deed transfers and related mortgage operations throughout the duration of the programme.'

Cyprus has just published the first quarterly progress review, which does not meet the requirements of the MoU.

For instance, title deeds transferred to purchasers, among other requirements, are simply not reported. Furthermore, given the reported 3 521 quarterly title deeds 'issued' for the second quarter, which are in any case issued in the developers' names and cannot be transferred to the buyers until all encumbrances are removed, it is clear that the deadline of Q4-2014 for eliminating the backlog of over 100 000 cannot be met.

It would therefore appear that Cyprus currently has little intention of complying with the requirements of the MoU. What action is the Commission taking, or does it propose to take, to address this matter?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(4 December 2013)

It is correct that at July's first review mission of programme conditionality, the Cypriot authorities met the MoU requirements only partially on the elimination of title deed backlogs, as reflected in the September Compliance Report: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/occasional_paper/2013/pdf/ocp161_en.pdf

The Commission is currently working with the Cypriot authorities to improve the reporting so that the public is fully informed in the shortest feasible timespan.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012353/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) et Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(30 octobre 2013)

Objet: Vidéo de décapitation sur le réseau Facebook

Une vidéo controversée de décapitation, postée sur le célèbre réseau social, a finalement été ôtée par Facebook qui avait pourtant assuré, peu avant, que ce contenu était en accord avec sa nouvelle ligne de conduite à l'égard des contenus ultra-violents.

Facebook a cédé. Face à la grogne conjuguée des internautes, des associations de défense de l'enfance et même du premier ministre britannique, David Cameron, le roi des réseaux sociaux a finalement décidé, mardi 22 octobre 2013, d'ôter de sa plateforme une vidéo controversée mettant en scène la décapitation d'une femme par un homme cagoulé. Pourtant, le matin même, Facebook avait affirmé qu'il ne comptait pas retirer cette vidéo, marquant ainsi un premier revirement par rapport à l'interdiction de ce genre de contenus très violents, qui prévalait depuis mai 2013.

Sa justification? «Les utilisateurs se servent de Facebook pour partager, s'indigner et condamner certaines pratiques. Et particulièrement, quand il s'agit d'abus commis en matière de Droits de l'homme, d'actes de terrorisme ou de violence. Il ne s'agit en aucun cas de faire l'apologie de la violence». Si la vidéo avait été utilisée pour glorifier ou encourager ce type d'action, le groupe californien l'aurait interdite.

1. Comment est-il possible que le retrait d'une vidéo de décapitation ne soit pas systématique et qu'il faille négocier la disparition de ce meurtre en direct?

2. Quelle est la position européenne sur cet honteux épisode de la part de Facebook?

3. Une entrevue est-elle prévue avec les directeurs de l'entreprise à ce sujet?

4. Qu'ont entrepris les autorités européennes dans ce sens?

Réponse donnée par Mme Kroes au nom de la Commission
(18 décembre 2013)

La Charte des droits fondamentaux de l'Union européenne établit, à son article 1er, que la dignité humaine est inviolable. Elle doit être respectée et protégée. La Charte consacre également les principes de la liberté d'expression et de la liberté et du pluralisme des médias à son article 11. Selon l'article 51 de la Charte, ses dispositions s'adressent aux institutions et organes de l'Union dans le respect du principe de subsidiarité, ainsi qu'aux États membres uniquement lorsqu'ils mettent en œuvre le droit de l'Union.

Au niveau de l'UE, il existe des règles spécifiques encadrant les services de médias audiovisuels, inscrites dans la directive sur les services de médias audiovisuels (directive SMA). C'est au cas par cas qu'il convient de déterminer si des réseaux de médias sociaux, tels que Facebook, doivent ou non être considérés comme des fournisseurs de services audiovisuels et si des contenus diffusés par l'intermédiaire de tels réseaux sont ou non soumis à la directive SMA. Or, sur la base des informations fournies, la Commission n'est pas en mesure de conclure que le cas décrit relève bien de la directive SMA.

La Commission rencontre régulièrement un large éventail de parties prenantes du secteur et il est clair que, lors de leur prochaine réunion, elle examinera avec eux les politiques de Facebook en ce domaine eu égard au risque lié à l'exposition à une telle violence, en particulier pour les groupes vulnérables tels les enfants.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012353/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) and Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Decapitation video on Facebook

Confronted with a barrage of complaints from Internet users, child protection organisations and even British Prime Minister David Cameron, on 22 October 2013 Facebook finally caved in and decided to take down a controversial video showing the decapitation of a woman by a masked man. That same morning, however, the world's leading social network had stated that it would not remove the video, thereby backtracking for the first time on its ban on this type of extremely violent content, which has been in force since May 2013.

The Californian company's reasoning? 'Facebook has long been a place where people turn to share their experiences, particularly when they're connected to controversial events on the ground, such as human rights abuses, acts of terrorism, and other violent events. People share videos of these events on Facebook to condemn them.' Facebook insisted that if the video had glorified or encouraged violent behaviour, it would have banned it.

1. How can the removal of a video showing a murder being committed be a matter for negotiation, and not simply automatic?

2. What is the EU's stance on this shameful incident?

3. Are there any plans to question Facebook executives?

4. What steps have the European authorities taken to arrange such an interview?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(18 December 2013)

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union sets out in its Article 1 that human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected. The Charter also enshrines freedom of expression as well as freedom and pluralism of the media in Article 11. According to Article 51 of said Charter, its provisions are addressed only to the institutions and bodies of the Union with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity and to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law.

At EU level, there are specific rules regarding audiovisual media services laid down in the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD). Whether or not social media networks or content provided via such networks, such as Facebook, can be qualified as audiovisual media service providers and are subject to the AVMSD would need to be assessed in each specific case. However, based on the information provided, the Commission cannot conclude that the case described would fall into the remit of the AVMSD.

The Commission regularly meets with a broad range of stakeholders and will certainly be enquiring about Facebook's policies in this regard at its next meeting with them, given the exposure particularly for vulnerable groups including children to such violence.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012354/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) et Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(30 octobre 2013)

Objet: Label «fait maison»

En cette période ou la sécurité alimentaire est au centre de tous les débats, la Commission appuierait-elle une obligation de transparence dans le chef du restaurateur? Celui-ci ne pourrait utiliser l'appellation «fait maison» sur sa carte que si le plat est cuisiné sur place, à partir de matières premières, en respectant un certain nombre de critères stricts.

La Commission est-elle en faveur d'un label «fait maison» de ce type?

L'objectif est de prouver aux consommateurs que les plats, mets, accompagnements et sauces mentionnés n'ont pas simplement été réchauffés au four à micro-ondes, mais remplissent des critères cumulatifs. Ces critères pourraient être les suivants:

— les plats sont préparés ou élaborés entièrement dans les cuisines du restaurant ou dans l'atelier de l'établissement;

— ils sont obtenus à partir de matières premières crues issues de l'agriculture, de l'élevage ou de la pêche;

— ils ne doivent pas avoir été assaisonnés hors de l'établissement, mais peuvent avoir été parés ailleurs préalablement;

— ils ont été obtenus en utilisant uniquement les ingrédients traditionnels de la cuisine.

Dans l'affirmative, la Commission partage-t-elle l'avis que certains plats spécifiques dont la préparation est trop fastidieuse pourraient recevoir une dérogation? Dans ces cas précis, les restaurateurs pourraient donc indiquer sur la carte le nom du producteur ainsi que le lieu d'élaboration du produit. Les agences nationales de sécurité alimentaire seraient chargées du contrôle auprès des restaurateurs et autres traiteurs.

Réponse donnée par M. Borg au nom de la Commission
(12 décembre 2013)

Les règles d'étiquetage des denrées alimentaires en vigueur dans l'UE ([1]) prévoient que la fourniture d'informations relatives aux denrées alimentaires non préemballées est principalement du ressort des États membres.

Le nouveau règlement (UE) n° 1169/2011 ([2]) rend obligatoire la mention des allergènes contenus dans les denrées alimentaires non préemballées, y compris celles qui sont servies dans les restaurants, les États membres étant libres d'exiger l'indication d'autres mentions obligatoires. Les règles nationales prévoyant la communication d'informations obligatoires qui vont au-delà de ce qui est actuellement requis pour les denrées alimentaires préemballées, doivent être notifiées à la Commission à l'état de projet. Tel serait le cas des informations obligatoires à fournir sur la manière dont les aliments sont préparés dans les restaurants.

L'utilisation volontaire de l'appellation «fait maison» doit se faire dans le respect de l'exigence de base selon laquelle les informations sur les denrées alimentaires ne doivent pas induire en erreur sur les caractéristiques de ces denrées et, notamment, sur leur nature, leur identité, leurs qualités et leur mode de fabrication ou d'obtention. Il incombe aux États membres de veiller à l'application de la législation de l'UE sur les denrées alimentaires ([3]) et de vérifier si ses exigences sont respectées par les exploitants du secteur.

([1]) Directive 2000/13/CE du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 20 mars 2000 relative au rapprochement des législations des États membres concernant l'étiquetage et la présentation des denrées alimentaires ainsi que la publicité faite à leur égard (JO L 109 du 6.5.2000, p. 29).

([2]) Règlement (UE) n° 1169/2011 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 25 octobre 2011 concernant l'information des consommateurs sur les denrées alimentaires, modifiant les règlements (CE) n° 1924/2006 et (CE) n° 1925/2006 du Parlement européen et du Conseil et abrogeant la directive 87/250/CEE de la Commission, la directive 90/496/CEE du Conseil, la directive 1999/10/CE de la Commission, la directive 2000/13/CE du Parlement européen et du Conseil, les directives 2002/67/CE et 2008/5/CE de la Commission et le règlement (CE) n° 608/2004 de la Commission (JO L 304 du 22.11.2011, p. 18). Le règlement (UE) n° 1169/2011 abrogera et remplacera la directive 2000/13/CE à compter du 13 décembre 2014.

([3]) Règlement (CE) n° 178/2002 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 28 janvier 2002 établissant les principes généraux et les prescriptions générales de la législation alimentaire, instituant l'Autorité européenne de sécurité des aliments et fixant des procédures relatives à la sécurité des denrées alimentaires (JO L 31 du 1.2.2002, p. 1).

Le règlement (UE) nº 1169/2011 (article 36, paragraphe 4) permet à la Commission d'harmoniser les informations sur les denrées alimentaires fournies à titre volontaire lorsque de telles informations fournies par les exploitants du secteur alimentaire sont divergentes et susceptibles d'induire en erreur ou de dérouter les consommateurs.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012354/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) and Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Food labelled 'made on the premises'

At a time when food safety is high on the public agenda, would the Commission support rules requiring restaurants to tell the truth about how food is prepared? The description 'made on the premises' would be reserved for dishes prepared from scratch on the spot and in accordance with strict criteria.

Is the Commission in favour of rules of this kind?

The aim would be to prove to consumers that dishes, side dishes and sauces have not simply been reheated in a microwave, but instead meet, for example, all the following criteria:

— they have been made or prepared entirely in the restaurant's kitchens or on the premises of the establishment concerned;

— they have been made using non-processed primary ingredients;

— the ingredients may have been cut and trimmed elsewhere in advance, but final cooking must be carried out on the premises;

— they have been made exclusively using traditional ingredients.

If the Commission concurs, does it also agree that certain dishes which require lengthy preparation could be granted special exemption from the rules? In such special cases, restaurant owners could instead state the name of the producer and the place of production on the menu.

National food standards agencies would be responsible for monitoring compliance with these rules by restaurants and other catering establishments.

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

Under current EU food labelling rules ([1]) the provision of information related to non-prepacked food is mainly within the remit of Member States.

The new Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 ([2]) provides for mandatory allergen information on non-prepacked food, including food delivered in restaurants, whilst Member States may decide to require the provision of other mandatory particulars. National rules establishing mandatory information for non-prepacked food going beyond what is currently required for prepacked food, must be notified to the Commission at a draft stage. This would be the case concerning mandatory provision of information about how the food is prepared in restaurants.

The voluntary use of the description 'made on the premises' must comply with the basic requirement that food information must not be misleading as to the characteristics of the food and, in particular, as to the nature, identity, properties, method of manufacture or production. Member States are responsible for the enforcement of EU food law ([3]) and verify that the relevant requirements thereof are fulfilled by business operators.

([1]) Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 March 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs (OJ L 109, 6.5.2000, p. 29).
([2]) Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004, (OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18). Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 will repeal and replace Directive 2000/13/EC as of 13 December 2014.
([3]) 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).

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 (Article 36.4) enables the Commission to harmonise voluntary food information where such information is provided by food business operators on a divergent basis which may mislead or confuse consumers.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012355/13
à la Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) et Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(30 octobre 2013)

Objet: Lapins en batterie

De nombreuses chaînes européennes de magasins ont décidé d'interrompre la vente de viande de lapins élevés en batterie.

La viande de lapin vendue est alors exclusivement issue de systèmes d'élevage en parcs.

Les animaux élevés en parcs bénéficient d'un espace plus large que dans les cages de batterie.

Les parcs sont par ailleurs équipés de plateaux surélevés et de cachettes, et offrent aux animaux des morceaux de bois, de foin, de paille et d'autres matériaux à ronger.

1. La Commission compte-t-elle prendre position pour la vente exclusive de lapins issus de l'élevage en parcs?

2. Possède-t-elle des statistiques sur la question: proportion de lapins en batterie vendus contre lapins en parc? Nombre de têtes?

3. La Commission songe-t-elle à promouvoir le bien-être des animaux en allant dans le sens de ces chaînes?

Réponse donnée par M. Borg au nom de la Commission
(3 janvier 2014)

Les agriculteurs qui élèvent des lapins pour la production de viande doivent se conformer aux dispositions de la directive 98/58/CE du Conseil concernant la protection des animaux dans les élevages [1], afin d'assurer que lesdits animaux ne subissent aucune douleur, souffrance ou dommage inutile.

Comme l'élevage de lapins en cages n'est pas interdit et tant que le droit de l'Union est respecté, les produits issus de ces exploitations peuvent être légalement commercialisés. Il n'existe aucune réglementation spécifique de l'UE concernant les systèmes de logement des lapins destinés à la production de viande ni aucune statistique sur le nombre de lapins détenus dans les différents systèmes d'élevage.

La Commission n'envisage pas pour le moment d'adopter une nouvelle législation sur le bien-être des animaux, quelles que soient les espèces élevées à l'intérieur de l'UE.

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[1] JO L 221 du 8.8.1998, p. 23.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012355/13
to the Commission
Marc Tarabella (S&D) and Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: Rabbit battery farms

Many European chain stores have decided to stop selling the meat of rabbits reared on battery farms.

The rabbit meat sold thus comes exclusively from rabbits raised in parks.

Animals bred in parks have more space than those in battery cages.

The parks in question are equipped with raised platforms and hiding places and provide animals with pieces of wood, hay, straw and other materials on which they can gnaw.

1. Will the Commission take a stand in demanding that only rabbits bred in parks can be sold?

2. Does it have any relevant statistics on the matter, i.e. the proportion of battery rabbits soldin comparison with park-bred rabbits, and the numbers involved?

3. Does the Commission intend to promote animal welfare in keeping with the wishes of theabovementioned chain stores?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

Farmers rearing rabbits for meat production must comply with the rules laid down in Council Directive 98/58 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes ([1]) thus ensuring animals are not caused unnecessary pain, suffering or injury.

Since rearing rabbits in cages is not prohibited and as long as existing Union law is respected products stemming from such holdings may be legally marketed. There are no specific EU rules regarding housing systems of rabbits kept for meat production and there are no statistics available on the number of rabbits kept according to different housing systems.

The Commission is currently not considering adopting any new animal welfare legislation for any of the species farmed within the EU.

([1]) OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, p.23.

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012356/13
adresată Comisiei
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(30 octombrie 2013)

Subiect: Noul program „Fructe în școli”

Conform rapoartelor anuale de monitorizare ale Comisiei din 2010/2011, peste 54 000 de școli și 8,1 milioane de copii au luat parte la programul „Fructe în școli” în cele 24 de state membre participante.

Recent, CE a aprobat creșterea bugetului alocat acestui program de la 90 de milioane de euro la 150 de milioane de euro.

Având în vedere faptul că, potrivit OMS, 20 % dintre copiii și adolescenții din Europa sunt supraponderali, iar o treime dintre ei sunt obezi, acest program este extrem de binevenit, mai ales dacă vorbim și de componenta sa educațională.

Comisia a realizat un raport de impact referitor la eficiența programului până în 2012.

În acest sens, poate spune Comisia dacă a pregătit un ghid cu recomandări de punere în aplicare a acestui program pentru statele membre?

Răspuns dat de dl Cioloș în numele Comisiei
(23 decembrie 2013)

Dată fiind diversitatea circumstanțelor naționale/regionale privind punerea în aplicare a programului de încurajare a consumului de fructe în școli, acest program trebuie să permită un anumit grad de flexibilitate.

Schimburile de opinii și de bune practici privind punerea în aplicare a programului de încurajare a consumului de fructe în școli sunt efectuate în mod periodic prin intermediul reuniunilor cu statele membre și cu părțile interesate.

În plus, Comisia lucrează în prezent la un document orientativ referitor la principiile celor mai bune practici, inclusiv pentru măsurile educative, cu ajutorul grupului de experți pentru consultanță tehnică referitoare la programul de încurajare a consumului de fructe în școli.

De asemenea, la începutul anului 2014, Comisia intenționează să prezinte o propunere de revizuire a programelor Uniunii destinate școlilor (programul de încurajare a consumului de fructe în școli și programul de distribuire a laptelui în școli), cu scopul de a furniza un cadru comun pentru a răspunde mai bine obiectivelor PAC și pentru a contribui la formarea unor obiceiuri alimentare sănătoase în rândul copiilor.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012356/13
to the Commission
Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D)
(30 October 2013)

Subject: New school fruit scheme

According to the Commission's annual monitoring reports for 2010/2011, over 54 000 schools and 8.1 million schoolchildren participated in the school fruit scheme that year in the 24 participating Member States.

The Commission recently decided to increase the funding allocated to this scheme from EUR 90 million to EUR 150 million.

Since, according to the WHO, 20% of European children and adolescents are overweight and a third of these are obese, this new scheme should be warmly welcomed, especially if one also considers its educational aspects.

The Commission has conducted an impact study on the effectiveness of the scheme for the period up to 2012.

Can the Commission state whether, in that connection, it has prepared a guide with recommendations to Member States on how best to implement the new scheme?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(23 December 2013)

Given the diversity of national/regional circumstances for the implementation of the School Fruit Scheme, the scheme has to allow for some flexibility.

Exchanges of views and best practices concerning the implementation of the School Fruit Scheme are carried out regularly through meetings with Member States and stakeholders.

In addition, the Commission is working on a guidance document concerning principles of best practice, including for educational measures, with the help of the Group of experts for technical advice on the School Fruit Scheme.

Moreover, at the beginning of 2014 the Commission intends to present a proposal on the review of the Union school schemes (School Fruit Scheme and School Milk Scheme) aiming to provide a common framework in order to better address CAP objectives and contribute to shape healthy eating habits in children.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-012358/13
an die Kommission
Elisabeth Jeggle (PPE) und Mathieu Grosch (PPE)
(31. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Eigenständige Sozialvorschriften für Busfahrer, Vereinheitlichung der Bebußung von Verstößen gegen die EU-Sozialvorschriften

1. In der Abstimmung am 3. Juli 2012 (P7_TA(2012)0271) über die Änderungsanträge zu dem Vorschlag für eine Verordnung zur Änderung der Verordnung (EWG) Nr. 3821/85 über das Kontrollgerät im Straßenverkehr und zur Änderung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 561/2006 (KOM(2011)0451 — C70205/2011 — 2011/0196(COD)) wurde der Änderungsantrag 6 (neue Erwägung 21 a zu eigenständigen Sozialvorschriften für Busfahrer), eingebracht durch die EVP, namentlich Herrn Dr. Koch, von großen Teilen des Parlaments akzeptiert. In den Trilog-Verhandlungen wurde dieser Antrag und eine Reihe anderer nützlicher Vorschläge in diese Richtung nicht weiter verfolgt.

Gibt es Pläne in der Kommission, Anpassungen der Lenk- und Ruhezeiten speziell für Busfahrer im Gelegenheitsverkehr vorzunehmen?

Begründung: Die derzeitigen Regelungen nehmen mit Ausnahme der 12-Tage-Regelung (die in ihrer derzeitigen Ausgestaltung wenig Anwendung findet) keine Rücksicht auf spezielle Bedingungen im Busgewerbe. Die starren Lenk- und Ruhezeitenregelungen der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 561/2006 sind auf den Lkw ausgerichtet und verhindern, dass Bedürfnisse von Fahrgästen und Fahrern zur Geltung kommen können, und stellen somit ein großes Problem für die Branche dar.

2. Verstöße gegen die Lenk- und Ruhezeiten/die EU-Sozialverordnung werden europaweit äußerst unterschiedlich geahndet. Zudem führen teils sehr geringfügige Verstöße schnell zu hohen Bußgeldern. Durch den Anhang der Richtlinie 2009/5/EG der Kommission ist eine vereinheitlichte Kategorisierung der Verstöße bereits angelegt. In den Maßnahmenkatalogen der Mitgliedstaaten ist aber zudem nicht immer erkennbar, dass der Schwerpunkt durchgängig auf der Erhöhung der Verkehrssicherheit liegt.

Gibt es Pläne der Kommission, die auf eine EU-weit einheitliche Sanktionspraxis abzielt? Gibt es Pläne der Kommission, den Grundsatz der Verhältnismäßigkeit bei Sanktionen im Straßenverkehr EU-weit einheitlich zu definieren?

Begründung: Die Verordnung (EG) Nr. 561/2006 enthält in Artikel 19 Absätze 1 und 4 ein Verhältnismäßigkeitserfordernis. Dieses wird durch das EuGH-Urteil vom 9.2.2012 — C-210/10 — konkretisiert. Je nach der Schwere des Verstoßes muss differenziert werden. Dies ist in vielen Mitgliedstaaten offensichtlich nicht der Fall.

Antwort von Herrn Kallas im Namen der Kommission
(19. Dezember 2013)

1. Mit der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 561/2006 [1] wurden einheitliche Bestimmungen für den Güter- und Personenkraftverkehr festgelegt und damit die seit 30 Jahren bestehenden Sozialvorschriften im Straßenverkehr präzisiert und vereinfacht. Die Verordnung sieht Flexibilität bei den Lenkzeiten sowie eine Ausnahmeregelung bezüglich der wöchentlichen Ruhezeit bei einzelnen Gelegenheitsdiensten im grenzüberschreitenden Personenverkehr vor. Es liegt im Ermessen der Mitgliedstaaten, von dieser Ausnahme Gebrauch zu machen.

Die Kommission ist sich der Besonderheiten des Personen- und des Güterkraftverkehrs bewusst. Sie lassen allerdings nicht den Schluss zu, dass im Personenkraftverkehr tätige Fahrer weniger müdigkeitsanfällig sind als Lkw-Fahrer und für sie deshalb weniger strenge Vorschriften gelten könnten. Würden bestimmte Gruppen von Kraftfahrern von den Ruhezeitvorschriften des Güterkraftverkehrs ausgeschlossen, so würden damit neben der Straßenverkehrssicherheit noch zwei weitere Ziele der Verordnung aufs Spiel gesetzt, nämlich die Sicherheit der Fahrer und die Gewährleistung eines fairen Wettbewerbs. Unterschiedliche Regelwerke würden den Mitgliedstaaten die Durchsetzung erschweren, ohne die Sicherheit erkennbar zu verbessern.

[1] Verordnung (EG) Nr. 561/2006 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 15. März 2006 zur Harmonisierung bestimmter Sozialvorschriften im Straßenverkehr und zur Änderung der Verordnungen (EWG) Nr. 3821/85 und (EG) Nr. 2135/98 des Rates sowie zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EWG) Nr. 3820/85 des Rates, ABl. L 102 vom 11.4.2006.

2. Die Kommission gab 2012 eine Studie ([2]) in Auftrag, um einen genauen Überblick über die in den Mitgliedstaaten angewendeten Sanktionen zu erhalten. Sie hat ergeben, dass es aufgrund der unterschiedlichen sozioökonomischen Situation in den Mitgliedstaaten und der verschiedenen Strafrechtsordnungen schwierig ist, ein europäisches Bußgeldsystem festzulegen. Die Kommission hat eine Durchführungsverordnung ([3]) über die harmonisierte Einstufung von Verstößen gegen Kraftverkehrsvorschriften erarbeitet, die Anfang 2014 verabschiedet werden soll. Diese Verordnung würde dazu beitragen, im Verhältnis zur Schwere der Verstöße stehende Sanktionen einzuführen. Ein kürzlich ergangenes Gerichtshofurteil ([4]) enthält ebenfalls Hinweise zu dem Kriterium der Verhältnismäßigkeit von Sanktionen.

([2]) Der Abschlussbericht der Studie über Sanktionen im Bereich des gewerblichen Straßenverkehrs (Study on sanctions in the field of commercial road transport) soll in den nächsten Monaten auf der Europa-Website veröffentlicht werden.

([3]) Gemäß Artikel 6 Absatz 2 Buchstabe b der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1071/2009 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 21. Oktober 2009 zur Festlegung gemeinsamer Regeln für die Zulassung zum Beruf des Kraftverkehrsunternehmers und zur Aufhebung der Richtlinie 96/26/EG des Rates, ABl. L 300 vom 14.11.2009.

([4]) Rechtssache C-210/10 Márton Urbán.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012358/13
to the Commission
Elisabeth Jeggle (PPE) and Mathieu Grosch (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Separate social legislation for bus drivers and uniform fines for infringements of EU social legislation

1. In the vote on 3 July 2012 (P7_TA(2012)0271) on the amendments to the proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 ((COM(2011)0451 — C70205/2011 — 2011/0196(COD)), large sections of Parliament accepted Amendment 6 tabled by the EPP Group, and specifically Mr Koch, inserting a new Recital 21a on separate social legislation for bus drivers. In the trilogue negotiations, however, that amendment and a number of other useful proposals along those lines have not been taken further.

Is the Commission planning to make adjustments to driving and rest periods specifically for bus drivers in connection with non-scheduled services?

Justification: With the exception of the 12-day rule, which, as it stands at present, is not applied to any great extent, current provisions make no allowances for specific conditions obtaining in the coach sector. The inflexible provisions on driving and rest periods under Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 are geared to heavy goods vehicles and prevent passengers' and drivers' needs from being met, thus constituting a major problem for the sector.

2. How infringements of driving and rest period provisions and EU social legislation are penalised varies to an extreme extent across Europe. In some cases, in addition, very minor infringements promptly result in swingeing fines. Standardised categories of infringements are set out in the annex to Commission Directive 2009/5/EC. Member States' catalogues of measures do not always make it clear, however, that the focus at all times is on increasing road safety.

Is the Commission planning to standardise penalties across the EU? Is the Commission planning to provide a standard EU definition of the principle of proportionality with regard to road transport penalties?

Justification: Under Article 19(1) and (4) of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006, penalties must be proportionate. That was spelled out in the European Court of Justice judgment of 9 February 2010 (in Case C-210/10). Distinctions must be made in the light of the seriousness of the infringements concerned. In many Member States, that is evidently not the case.

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

1. Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 ([1]) clarified and simplified the 30 year old social legislation in road transport setting out uniform rules for both goods and passenger transport. This regulation provides for flexibility as regards the driving times rules and for derogation from the weekly rest for a single occasional international carriage of passengers. It is up to the Member States to make use of this derogation.

The Commission acknowledges the specificities of passenger transport and freight transport. These do not, however, imply that drivers carrying passengers are less prone to fatigue than those carrying goods and hence could be covered by less stringent rules. Apart from road safety aspects, also two other objectives of the regulation, namely safety of drivers and fair competition, would be undermined if certain categories of drivers could not benefit from the same provisions on rest periods, as those in the haulage sector. Different sets of rules would also make it more difficult for the Member States to enforce them, with no clear additional safety benefits.

([1]) Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport and amending Council Regulations (EEC) No 3821/85 and (EC) No 2135/98 and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 OJ L 102, 11.4.2006.

2. In 2012 the Commission launched a study ([2]) to get a detailed overview of penalties applied in Member States. It shows that due to different socioeconomic situations in Member States and various national penal systems, it is difficult to establish a European system of fines. The Commission has prepared an implementing Regulation ([3]) on the harmonised categorisation of infringements of road transport provisions, to be adopted at the beginning of 2014. This implementing Regulation would help establish penalties which are proportionate to the gravity of infringements. A recent Court of justice ruling ([4]) also provides some guidance on the criterion of proportionality of penalties.

([2]) The final report of the 'Study on sanctions in the field of commercial road transport' is to be published on the Europa website in the coming months.

([3]) In accordance with Article 6 § 2 b) of 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.

([4]) Case C-210/10 Márton Urbán.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012359/13
to the Commission
Gay Mitchell (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Temporary workers

While Directive 2008/104/EC on temporary agency work defined a minimum protection level for temporary workers, employment conditions for many temporary workers can still be precarious. Does the Commission have any plans in the pipeline for enforcing temporary workers' rights across the Union?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(12 December 2013)

The Commission is checking the compliance of the national implementing provisions with Directive 2008/104/EC ([1]) on temporary agency work, in particular on the basis of information provided by the Member States on their provisions transposing the directive and any complaints alleging an infringement of the directive.

In accordance with Article 12 of the directive, the Commission is currently drawing up a report on its application, in consultation with the Member States and the social partners at EU level. The report will cover the implementation of the directive in the Member States, notably as regards the application of the principle of equal treatment and the other provisions to improve the protection of temporary agency workers. Should the Commission identify any areas of concern, it will tackle them in the appropriate way, including, where necessary, by initiating an infringement procedure.

According to a recent study ([2]) on precarious work and social rights carried out in the framework of a pilot project ([3]), temporary agency work is among the forms of employment that are most likely to be perceived as precarious. However, precariousness is the result of a combination of factors, including the welfare system in place and the worker's family situation, and thus can affect workers on any form of employment contract.

([1]) Directive 2008/104/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on temporary agency work, OJ L 327, 5.12.2008, p. 9.
([2]) Study on precarious work and social rights, 2012, carried out for the Commission by London Metropolitan University.
([3]) Pilot project 'Encourage conversion of precarious work into work with rights' carried out in 2011 and 2012.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-012360/13
an die Kommission
Renate Sommer (PPE)
(31. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Auswirkung von Rapsöl auf die Gesundheit

Rapsöl gilt als preiswertes und gesundes Speiseöl. Dennoch gibt es in der Öffentlichkeit offensichtlich Zweifel an seiner gesundheitlichen Unbedenklichkeit. Es wird vermutet, dass Rapsöl nicht völlig frei von Erucasäure und deshalb insbesondere ungeeignet für die Ernährung von Kindern ist. Bei der Herstellung sollen Lösungs- und Ätzmittel verwendet werden, und durch die durch Erhitzen oxydierten ungesättigten Fettsäuren soll sich — wie auch bei Mais- und Sojaöl — die Menge der freien Radikale im Körper erhöhen. Ferner soll bei der Herstellung ein Teil des Omega-3-Gehaltes in Transfette umgewandelt werden, so dass Rapsöl letztendlich — entgegen anderslautenden Werbeaussagen — einen erheblichen Anteil an Transfettsäuren enthalten soll.

1. Ist Rapsöl völlig frei von Erucasäure?

2. Welche Chemikalien werden bei der Herstellung von Rapsöl eingesetzt, und welche Auswirkungen hat dies gegebenenfalls auf die menschliche Gesundheit?

3. Kann die Kommission die oben beschriebenen Veränderungen der Fettsäuren im Zuge des Herstellungsprozesses bestätigen?

4. Sind Zweifel an der gesundheitlichen Unbedenklichkeit von Rapsöl gerechtfertigt?

Antwort von Herrn Borg im Namen der Kommission
(12. Dezember 2013)

1. In der Europäischen Union werden nur Rapssorten mit einem geringen Erukasäuregehalt Verwendung in der Lebens- oder Futtermittelerzeugung verwendet. Für den menschlichen Verzehr bestimmtes Rapsöl darf — bezogen auf den Gesamtgehalt an Fettsäuren in der Fettphase — höchstens 5 % Erukasäure enthalten ([1]); in Säuglingsanfangsnahrung und Folgenahrung darf der Erukasäuregehalt 1 % des Gesamtfettgehalts nicht überschreiten ([2]). Sorten mit einem hohen Erukasäuregehalt werden nur für industrielle Zwecke verwendet.

2. Rohes Rapsöl enthält Stoffe, die aus Gründen des Geschmacks, der Stabilität, des Aussehens und der Weiterverarbeitung unerwünscht sind. Diese unerwünschten Stoffe werden durch den Raffinationsprozess eliminiert, der Nährwert bleibt jedoch erhalten. Im Raffinationsprozess werden Verarbeitungshilfen eingesetzt, so etwa Hexan beim Pressen und Zitronen- und/oder Phosphorsäure sowie Ätznatron bei der Raffination. Diese Verarbeitungshilfen werden während der weiteren Verarbeitung eliminiert. Das raffinierte Rapsöl enthält keine Rückstände dieser Verarbeitungshilfen, so dass die Verwendung von Verarbeitungshilfen im Raffinationsprozess des Rapsöls keine negativen Auswirkungen auf die menschliche Gesundheit hat.

3. Aufgrund der hohen Temperatur im letzten Schritt des Raffinationsprozesses kommt es mitunter zur Bildung von Trans-Fettsäuren. Bei Anwendung der Grundsätze guter Praxis bilden sich nicht mehr als 2 % Trans-Fettsäuren. In raffiniertem Rapsöl liegt der Gehalt an trans-Fettsäuren deutlich unter 2 %.

4. Bei Anwendung der Grundsätze guter Praxis ist die Unbedenklichkeit von raffiniertem Rapsöl gewährleistet.

([1]) Richtlinie 76/621/EWG des Rates vom 20. Juli 1976 zur Festsetzung des Höchstgehalts an Erukasäure in Speiseölen und -fetten sowie in Lebensmitteln mit Öl- und Fettzusätzen (ABl. Nr. L 202 vom 28.7.1976, S. 35).

([2]) Richtlinie 2006/141/EG der Kommission vom 22. Dezember 2006 über Säuglingsanfangsnahrung und Folgenahrung und zur Änderung der Richtlinie 1999/21/EG (ABl. L 401 vom 30.12.2006, S. 1).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012360/13
to the Commission
Renate Sommer (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Effects of rapeseed oil on health

Rapeseed oil is considered to be an affordable and healthy cooking oil. Nonetheless, the general public clearly has doubts as to whether it is really harmless to health. Suspicions exist that rapeseed oil is not completely free from erucic acid, making its use in food for children particularly unsuitable. It is alleged that solvents and corrosives are used in its manufacture and that — as with corn oil and soya oil — heating the unsaturated fatty acids to oxidise them increases the quantity of free radicals in the body. Furthermore, a portion of the omega-3 content is said to be converted in the manufacturing process into transfats, so that at the end of the day rapeseed oil — despite publicity claims to the contrary — would seem to contain a high proportion of transfats.

1. Is rapeseed oil completely free of erucic acid?

2. Which chemicals are used in the manufacture of rapeseed oil and what are the possible effects these may have on human health?

3. Can the Commission confirm the changes described above to fatty acids in the course of the manufacturing process?

4. Are the doubts about rapeseed oil being harmless to health justified?

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

1. Only rapeseed varieties with low content of erucic acid are used for the rapeseed production in the European Union for food and feed purposes. Rapeseed oil intended for human consumption shall not contain more than 5% erucic acid calculated on the total level of fatty acids ([1]) and the level of erucic acid in infant formulae and follow-on formulae shall not exceed 1% of the total fat content ([2]). The varieties high in erucic acid are only used for industrial purposes.

2. Crude rapeseed oil contains substances, which are undesirable for taste, stability, appearance or further processing. These undesirable substances are removed by the refining process, while maintaining the nutritional value. Processing aids are used in the oil refining process, such as hexane during crushing and citric and/or phosphoric acid and caustic soda during refining. These processing aids are removed in subsequent processing. The refined rapeseed oil does no longer contain residues of these processing aids and therefore the use of processing aids in the refining process of rapeseed oil has no adverse health effects on human health.

3. Because of the high temperature used during the last step of the refining process, formation of trans fatty acid occurs. In case of the application of good practices during the refining process, no more than 2% of trans fatty acids are formed. In refined rapeseed oil, the trans fatty acid content is well below 2%.

4. In case of application of good practices during the refining process, the safety of refined rapeseed oil is ensured.

([1]) Council Directive 76/621/EEC of 20 July 1976 relating to the fixing of the maximum level of erucic acid in oils and fats intended as such for human consumption and in foodstuffs containing added oils and fats (OJ L 202, 28.7.1976, p. 35).
([2]) Commission Directive 2006/141/EC of 22 December 2006 on infant formulae and follow-on formulae and amending Directive 1999/21/EC (OJ L 401, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-012361/13
an die Kommission
Renate Sommer (PPE)
(31. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Einschätzung von Angaben zu Probiotika in Lebensmitteln

Trotz zahlreicher wissenschaftlich anerkannter Studien hat die Europäische Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit (EFSA) keine gesundheitsbezogenen Werbeaussagen für Produkte, die Probiotika erhalten, zugelassen. Die betroffenen Unternehmen arbeiten daran, diese Hürde zu überwinden. Allerdings besteht die Sorge, dass sogar der bloße Hinweis „enthält Probiotika“ auf Produktverpackungen verboten werden könnte, obwohl dabei keine Aussage zur Gesundheitswirkung getroffen wird. In Deutschland hat es bereits divergierende obergerichtliche Entscheidungen zum Begriff „Probiotika“ und zu der Aussage „mit probiotischen Kulturen“ gegeben, die zu erheblicher Rechtsunsicherheit führen.

Bei einem Verbot des Hinweises auf Probiotika auf den Produktverpackungen entfiele das Herausstellungsmerkmal, so dass bei den entsprechenden Produkten möglicherweise ein Umsatzeinbruch zu verzeichnen wäre; dies aber würde die Investitionen in die Entwicklung innovativer Lebensmittel gefährden.

1. Ist die Kommission der Ansicht, dass die Bezeichnungen „enthält Probiotika“ oder „probiotisch“ eine nährwertbewogene Angabe im Sinne des Artikels 2 Absatz 2 Nummer 4 der Verordnung (EG) 1924/2006 sind, da die Anforderungen von Artikel 2 Absatz 2 Nummer 3 und Artikel 5 erfüllt sind?

2. Plant die Kommission, den Hinweis „enthält Probiotika“ auf Produktverpackungen zu verbieten?

Antwort von Tonio Borg im Namen der Kommission
(12. Dezember 2013)

Gemäß der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1924/2006 über nährwert- und gesundheitsbezogene Angaben über Lebensmittel ist eine gesundheitsbezogene Angabe jede Angabe, mit der erklärt, suggeriert oder auch nur mittelbar zum Ausdruck gebracht wird, dass ein Zusammenhang zwischen einer Lebensmittelkategorie, einem Lebensmittel oder einem seiner Bestandteile einerseits und der Gesundheit andererseits besteht.

In den als Schlussfolgerungen des Ständigen Ausschusses für die Lebensmittelkette und Tiergesundheit angenommenen Leitlinien ([1]) für die Durchführung der genannten Verordnung aus dem Jahr 2007 ist erläutert, dass es sich bei einer Angabe um eine gesundheitsbezogene Angabe handelt, wenn die Bezeichnung des Stoffs oder der Stoffkategorie eine Beschreibung oder die Angabe einer Funktionsweise oder einer angedeuteten Auswirkung auf die Gesundheit enthält. In diesem Leitliniendokument ist ein konkretes Beispiel für eine solche gesundheitsbezogene Angabe genannt, und zwar *„enthält Probiotika“*, und es wird ausgeführt, dass der Verweis auf Probiotika eine Auswirkung auf die Gesundheit impliziert.

Die Mitgliedstaaten können sich bei Anwendung und Durchsetzung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1924/2006 auf diese Leitlinien stützen.

Bisher gibt es keine zulässigen gesundheitsbezogenen Angaben zu Probiotika. Nach Annahme der Verordnung (EU) Nr. 536/2013 der Kommission zur Änderung der Verordnung (EU) Nr. 432/2012 zur Festlegung einer Liste zulässiger gesundheitsbezogener Angaben über Lebensmittel ([2]) wurden mehrere gesundheitsbezogene Angaben zu Probiotika (Mikroorganismen) als nicht zulässige Angaben in das EU-Register nährwert- und gesundheitsbezogener Angaben über Lebensmittel aufgenommen.

Wir möchten darauf hinweisen, dass am 20. September 2013 die Verordnung (EU) Nr. 907/2013 der Kommission zur Festlegung von Regeln für Anträge auf Verwendung allgemeiner Bezeichnungen angenommen wurde. Bis zum heutigen Tag sind keine Anträge auf Verwendung des Begriffs „Probiotika“ eingegangen. Alle künftig eingehenden Anträge werden gemäß dem Verfahren bearbeitet, das in der genannten Verordnung geregelt ist.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/claims/guidance_claim_14-12-07.pdf
([2]) ABl. L 160 vom 12.6.2013.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012361/13
to the Commission
Renate Sommer (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Assessment of food labelling indications concerning probiotics

In spite of numerous scientifically recognised studies, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has not approved any health claims for products containing probiotics. Manufacturers are working to overcome this obstacle. They are, however, worried that they might be prohibited even from mentioning on the packaging that a product 'contains probiotics', although a bald statement of that kind says nothing about health effects. Higher courts in Germany have been handing down divergent rulings on the term 'probiotics' and the indication 'with probiotic cultures', and this is causing considerable legal uncertainty.

If it were forbidden to mention on the packaging that products contain probiotics, the selling point would be lost, and sales might fall accordingly; if that were to happen, investment in the development of novel foods would be placed in jeopardy.

1. Does the Commission consider that the indications 'contains probiotics' or 'probiotic' constitute a nutrition claim within the meaning of Article 2(2)(4) of Regulation (EC)No 1924/2006, bearing in mind that, in this case, the requirements of Article 2(2)(3) andArticle 5 are met?

2. Does it intend to ban labelling indications that a product 'contains probiotics'?

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

Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods states that a health claim means any claim which states, suggests or implies that a relationship exists between a food category, a food or one of its constituents and health.

The Guidance ([1]) on the implementation of the abovementioned Regulation of 2007, approved as conclusions of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, clarifies that a claim is a health claim if in the naming of the substance or category of substances there is a description or indication of a functionality or an implied effect on health. The Guidance document gives a concrete example of such health claim, namely 'contains probiotics' explaining that the reference to probiotics implies a health effect.

Member States may use this Guidance when applying and enforcing Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006.

To date, there are no authorised health claims on probiotics; several health claims on probiotics (micro-organisms) were included as non-authorised claims in the EU Register of nutrition and health claims made on foods following the adoption of Commission Regulation (EU) No 536/2013 amending Regulation (EU) No 432/2012 establishing a list of permitted health claims made on foods ([2]).

It should be noted that Commission Regulation (EC) No 907/2013 setting the rules for application concerning the use of generic descriptors (denominations) was adopted on 20 September 2013. No applications regarding the use of the term 'probiotics' have been received to date. Any future application will be treated in accordance with the procedure foreseen in the aforementioned Regulation.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/claims/guidance_claim_14-12-07.pdf
([2]) OJ L 160, 12.6.2013.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012362/13
to the Commission
Linda McAvan (S&D)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Sambuca and the spirit drinks regulation

I am writing further to the Commission's answer to Written Question E-006892/2013 ([1]).

Can the Commission clarify the legal status of coloured products bearing the name 'sambuca'? Has the Commission discovered products that have been illegally labelled in this regard and, if so, what action has it taken?

Answer given by Mr Cioloș on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

According to the definition of the category 'sambuca', included in point 38 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks ([2]), 'Sambuca is a colourless aniseed-flavoured liqueur…'. Consequently, the absence of colour is one of the essential conditions for the conformity of the product with the definition of 'sambuca'.

However, Article (10)1 of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 allows the use of the names of categories listed in Annex II as part of a compound terms or as an allusion provided that '… the alcohol originates exclusively from the spirit drink(s) referred to.'

Therefore, a spirit drink containing 'sambuca' and a coloured foodstuff can be described by a compound term which includes the term 'sambuca' jointly with the name of the foodstuff used (for example, 'Strawberry sambuca'), provided that all the alcohol used comes exclusively from 'sambuca'. The final product, in this case, will be coloured and the sales denomination will not be 'sambuca' but 'spirit drink' or 'liqueur', according to its composition.

The Commission has been alerted on trade of Sambuca which could be in breach of the relevant EU definition and informed the concerned Member State, who is currently enquiring. Member States are responsible for the control of spirit drinks and for taking the necessary measures to ensure compliance of spirit drinks with EU rules.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2013-006892&language=EN
([2]) OJ L 39, 13.2.2008, p. 16-54.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012364/13
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)
(31 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Alluvione di Ginosa

Il 7 e 8 ottobre scorso si è verificata una devastante alluvione nelle province di Taranto e Matera. Uno dei centri più colpiti dalla calamità naturale è stato il comune di Ginosa.

Secondo Coldiretti i danni che le piogge hanno provocato all'agricoltura locale ammontano a 50 milioni di euro, pari al 10 % della produzione lorda vendibile del territorio. Sono state colpite colture come ortaggi e fragole, appena trapiantate, con i relativi impianti, ma anche campi di uva da tavola ancora da raccogliere e agrumeti.

Anche l'amministrazione cittadina ha stimato i danni alle infrastrutture, alle strade e ai privati in 50 milioni di euro. Complessivamente quindi l'alluvione ha prodotto danni per ben 100 milioni di euro.

Si registrano in zona anche quattro decessi dovuti all'alluvione.

Alla luce di ciò, può la Commissione chiarire:

1. se esaminerà la possibilità di sovvenzione per le zone colpite dall'alluvione di cui sopra in base a quanto previsto dall'articolo 2, paragrafo 2, del regolamento (CE) n. 2012/2002 che prevede la possibilità di beneficiare dell'intervento del Fondo di solidarietà dell'Unione europea per una zona che sia stata colpita da una catastrofe straordinaria, anche se non vengono soddisfatti i requisiti quantitativi stabiliti dalla normativa;

2. se, per il ripristino dei danni causati, soprattutto al comparto agricolo, è possibile usufruire degli stanziamenti dei Fondi strutturali;

3. se esistono progetti che sperimentano nuovi approcci di riduzione del rischio di calamità come quello sempre più frequente delle alluvioni in tutta Europa?

Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione
(16 dicembre 2013)

1. Affinché la Commissione possa determinare se i requisiti per l'intervento del Fondo di solidarietà dell'Unione siano soddisfatti, le autorità nazionali dello Stato membro colpito da una catastrofe devono presentare domanda di intervento entro 10 settimane dal verificarsi dell'evento. La Commissione non può procedere alla mobilitazione del Fondo di solidarietà di propria iniziativa. Ad oggi le autorità italiane non hanno presentato domanda né comunicato l'intenzione di farlo.

2. Sebbene alcuni programmi di sviluppo rurale italiani per il periodo 2007-2013 sostengono il ripristino del potenziale agricolo danneggiato da catastrofi naturali, il programma di sviluppo rurale per la Puglia non contempla tali misure in quanto le autorità regionali non lo hanno mai richiesto. Qualora venisse presentata una domanda in questo senso, la Commissione provvederà sicuramente a valutarla nel più breve tempo possibile, tenendo conto della normativa in materia di sviluppo rurale.

3. La promozione dell'adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici, della prevenzione e della gestione dei rischi è uno degli 11 obiettivi tematici della politica di coesione per il periodo 2014-2020. In questo quadro e in relazione alle priorità che saranno fissate nei programmi pertinenti, gli Stati membri e le regioni potranno attingere al relativo sostegno finanziario al fine di investire in programmi sulla prevenzione delle alluvioni.

La direttiva sulle alluvioni ([1]) definisce un quadro per la valutazione e la gestione dei rischi di alluvioni. Le valutazioni preliminari del rischio di alluvioni erano state richieste entro la fine del 2011. Le mappe della pericolosità e del rischio di alluvioni vanno ultimate entro la fine del 2013 mentre i piani di gestione del rischio di alluvioni vanno ultimati entro la fine del 2015. Detti piani vanno riesaminati periodicamente. Compete agli Stati membri fissare gli obiettivi di riduzione dei rischi concreti e selezionare le misure tenendo conto delle condizioni locali e regionali.

([1]) Direttiva 2007/60/CE, GU L 288 del 6.11.2007.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012364/13
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Flooding in Ginosa

On 7 and 8 October, massive flooding occurred in the provinces of Taranto and Matera, one of the areas worst hit by this natural disaster being the municipality of Ginosa.

According to the Coldiretti national farmers confederation, damage to local agriculture amounted to EUR 50 million, that is to say 10% of the region's gross marketable output. Not only vegetable crops but also recently planted strawberry beds and equipment, together with fields of unharvested table grapes and citrus groves were destroyed.

The authorities for their part have estimated at EUR 50 million the cost of damage to infrastructure, roads and private property, resulting in total losses of at least EUR 100 million.

The floods also claimed four lives in the localities affected.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission consider the possibility of providing subsidies for the flood-stricken areas under the terms of Article 2(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 to the effect that a region may also receive EU Solidarity Fund assistance where it has been affected by an extraordinary disaster, even when the stipulated quantitative criteria are not met?

2. Can Structural Fund resources be earmarked for damage repair, particularly in the agricultural sector?

3. Are risk containment projects being developed in response to disasters such as the increasingly frequent floods afflicting the whole of Europe?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(16 December 2013)

1. In order for the Commission to assess whether a disaster is eligible for aid from the EU Solidarity Fund, the national authorities of the affected Member State must present an application within 10 weeks of the start of the disaster. The Commission may not activate the Solidarity Fund upon its own initiative. To date, the Italian authorities have not made an application or communicated their intention of doing so.

2. Although some Italian rural development programmes for the 2007-2013 period do support the restoration of agricultural potential damaged by natural disasters, the regional rural development programme for Puglia does not include this measure; this was never requested by the regional authorities. If such a request is introduced, the Commission will certainly evaluate such demand within the shortest time possible, taking into account the legislation on rural development.

3. Promoting climate change adaption, risk prevention and management is one of the 11 thematic objectives of 2014-2020 cohesion policy. In this framework and linked to the priorities which will be set in the relevant programmes, the Member States and regions will be able to draw on the related financial support in order to invest in programmes on flood prevention.

The Floods Directive ([1]) establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks. Preliminary flood risk assessments were required by the end of 2011. Flood hazard and risk maps should be completed by end of 2013 and flood risk management plans by end of 2015; these plans should be periodically reviewed. The setting of concrete risk reduction objectives and selection of measures is up to the Member States based on local and regional circumstances.

([1]) Directive 2007/60/EC, OJ L 288, 6.11.2007.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012365/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Απειλούμενα μνημεία και πολιτιστικά τοπία στην Ευρώπη

Επτά απειλούμενα μνημεία και πολιτιστικά τοπία στην Ευρώπη έχουν επιλεγεί από το Europa Nostra και το Ινστιτούτο της Ευρωπαϊκής Τράπεζας Επενδύσεων για να διασωθούν, γιατί το καθένα από αυτά λέει μια συναρπαστική ιστορία για το κοινό παρελθόν της ευρωπαϊκής οικογένειας. Ανάμεσα σ' αυτά είναι και η νεκρή ζώνη στο ιστορικό κέντρο της Λευκωσίας, όπου πολλά ιστορικά κτήρια χρήζουν αποκατάστασης.

Ερωτάται λοιπόν η Επιτροπή:

1. Από που μπορούν να αντληθούν ευρωπαϊκά κονδύλια για τη διάσωση αυτών των μνημείων που στην περίπτωση της Κύπρου καταστράφηκαν λόγω της τουρκικής εισβολής του 1974;

2. Γιατί δεν καλείται και η Τουρκία, ως χώρα εισβολέας και υπαίτιος της καταστροφής στη Νεκρή ζώνη, να συμβάλει οικονομικά σ' αυτή την προσπάθεια, την οποία η ίδια δημιούργησε, ενώ κατά οξύμωρο τρόπο απολαμβάνει η ίδια πακτωλούς ευρωπαϊκής χρηματοδότησης ως χώρα υπό ένταξη;

3. Πώς μπορεί η Ευρωπαϊκή Τράπεζα Επενδύσεων να βοηθήσει την Κύπρο που βρίσκεται σήμερα σε πολύ άσχημη οικονομική θέση λόγω κουρέματος καταθέσεων και άδικων αποφάσεων του Eurogroup;

Απάντηση του κ. Füle εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(6 Ιανουαρίου 2014)

Όσον αφορά την πρώτη ερώτηση, η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει την αξιότιμη κυρία βουλευτή στην απάντησή της στην προηγούμενη γραπτή ερώτηση αριθ. E-007311/13 ([1]). Προς ενημέρωση, το βραβείο πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς της ΕΕ, σκοπός του οποίου είναι η προβολή ορισμένων από τα καλύτερα επιτεύγματα της Ευρώπης όσον αφορά την φροντίδα της πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς, απονεμήθηκε το 2003 και το 2011 για σχέδια που αφορούν τη ζώνη ασφαλείας στη Λευκωσία.

Η Τουρκία, ως υποψήφια χώρα, είναι επιλέξιμη για συνδρομή στο πλαίσιο του μηχανισμού προενταξιακής βοήθειας (ΜΠΒ) για τη σταδιακή ευθυγράμμισή της με τα πρότυπα και τις πολιτικές της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης εν όψει της ένταξής της. Ωστόσο, οι χρηματοδοτικές ρυθμίσεις για την κάλυψη των δαπανών για τα έργα στα οποία αναφέρεται η αξιότιμη κυρία βουλευτής δεν εμπίπτουν στις αρμοδιότητες της Επιτροπής και βρίσκονται εκτός του πεδίου της χρηματοδότησης βάσει του ΜΠΒ.

Ο όμιλος της Ευρωπαϊκής Τράπεζας Επενδύσεων (ΕΤΕπ) και η Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία διεξάγουν διαπραγματεύσεις σχετικά με ένα καθεστώς στήριξης για τη χρηματοδότηση κυπριακών μικρομεσαίων επιχειρήσεων (ΜΜΕ), που αντιμετωπίζουν σοβαρές δυσχέρειες λόγω της κρίσης που πλήττει την Κύπρο. Με την χρηματοδοτική αυτή συνεισφορά στο πλαίσιο της προτεινόμενης ενέργειας της ΕΤΕπ θα καλυφθεί η έλλειψη χρηματοδότησης από την αγορά που θέτει τις ΜΜΕ υπό πίεση. Η ενέργεια αυτή θα συμβάλει στη βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη και την απασχόληση στην Κύπρο, δεδομένου ότι οι ΜΜΕ αποτελούν τη ραχοκοκαλιά της κυπριακής οικονομίας, καθώς αντιπροσωπεύουν πάνω από το 99% των επιχειρήσεων και δημιουργούν πάνω από το 80% των θέσεων απασχόλησης στην Κύπρο.

Τα θέματα που θίγει η αξιότιμη κυρία βουλευτής καταδεικνύουν για μία ακόμη φορά την ανάγκη ταχείας και συνολικής διευθέτησης του κυπριακού προβλήματος.

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

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012365/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Threatened monuments and cultural landmarks in Europe

Seven threatened monuments and cultural landmarks in Europe have been selected for restoration by the Europa Nostra and European Investment Bank Institute, each of them with a fascinating history relating to our shared past as a European family of nations, including the buffer zone in the Nicosia city centre, where many historic buildings are in need of restoration.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say where EU funding can be found to restore monuments such as those destroyed in Cyprus as a result of the 1974 Turkish invasion?

2. Given that Turkey, the invading force responsible for the destruction which occurred in the buffer zone, was behind this particular initiative, why is it not being called on contribute financially, particularly in view of the generous European funding that it is receiving, paradoxically enough, as an applicant country?

3. What assistance can the European Investment Bank provide for Cyprus, which is currently in dire economic straits in the wake of haircuts levied on deposits and unjust decisions by the Eurogroup?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(6 January 2014)

With regard to the first question, the Commission would kindly refer the Honourable Member to its answer to previous Written Question E-007311/13 ([1]). By way of information, the EU Cultural heritage Prize, which aims to highlight some of Europe's best achievements in heritage care, was awarded in 2003 and 2011 to projects involving the buffer zone in Nicosia.

Turkey, as a candidate country, is eligible for Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) assistance in its progressive alignment with the standards and policies of the European Union, including EC law, with a view to membership. However, the financial arrangements to cover the costs for the projects referred to by the Honourable Member fall outside the competence of the Commission and outside the scope of IPA funding.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) Group and the Republic of Cyprus are currently negotiating a support scheme to finance Cypriot small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are severely hampered by the crisis affecting Cyprus. Through its funding contribution, the proposed EIB operation will address the SMEs pressing financing market gap. The operation would contribute to sustainable growth and employment in Cyprus, as SMEs are the backbone of the Cypriot economy representing more than 99% of companies and creating more than 80% of jobs in Cyprus.

The issues raised by the Honourable Member once again emphasise the urgency of reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

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

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012366/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: «Έργα κοινού ενδιαφέροντος LNG και καλώδιο»

Το σχέδιο για το καλώδιο μεταφοράς ηλεκτρισμού που θα συνδέει το Ισραήλ, την Κύπρο και την Ελλάδα, όπως και η αποθήκευση υγροποιημένου φυσικού αερίου στην Κύπρο, έχουν υιοθετηθεί σε καθοριστικής σημασίας συνεδρίες σε πολιτικό επίπεδο από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και συγκεκριμένα στις 24 Ιουλίου 2013, σε συνεδρία της πολιτικής σύνθεσης του Οργάνου Λήψης Αποφάσεων («Decision Making Body»).

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

α) Πώς αξιολογεί την προοπτική εξόρυξης φυσικού αερίου από την Αποκλειστική Οικονομική Ζώνη της Κύπρου;

β) Πώς αξιολογεί την προοπτική που δημιουργείται τόσο από την πιθανή σύνδεση Ισραήλ-Κύπρου-Ελλάδας όσο και την αποθήκευση υγροποιημένου φυσικού αερίου στην Κύπρο για τους ενεργειακούς σχεδιασμούς της ΕΕ;

Απάντηση του κ. Oettinger εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(18 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

α) Σχετικά με τη θέση της ΕΕ για τις προοπτικές εξόρυξης φυσικού αερίου στην αποκλειστική οικονομική ζώνη της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας, η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει στις απαντήσεις της στις γραπτές ερωτήσεις E-007674/2013, E-001320/2013, E-009715/2013 και E-010975/2013.

β) Η αποθήκευση ΥΦΑ στη Δημοκρατία της Κύπρου και στην ευρωασιατική γραμμή διασύνδεσης έχουν αμφότερα χαρακτηριστεί ως έργο κοινού ενδιαφέροντος σύμφωνα με τον κανονισμό (ΕΕ) αριθ. 347/2013 με βάση τα οφέλη τους για την ΕΕ όσον αφορά την ολοκλήρωση της αγοράς, τον ανταγωνισμό, την ασφάλεια του εφοδιασμού και την αειφορία. Η κατάσταση αυτή τους επιτρέπει να επωφελούνται από ειδικού τύπου καθεστώς αδειοδότησης και ρυθμιστικής μεταχείρισης στο εσωτερικό της ΕΕ και, ενδεχομένως, να ζητούν χρηματοδοτική βοήθεια της ΕΕ στο πλαίσιο της διευκόλυνσης «Συνδέοντας την Ευρώπη», με την προϋπόθεση ότι συμμορφώνονται με τους όρους που περιγράφονται στον κανονισμό. Εκτός από τα ως άνω, όλες οι δυνητικές διαδρομές πρέπει να εξεταστούν και να αξιολογηθούν τόσο από πλευράς ασφάλειας ενεργειακού εφοδιασμού, όσο και από πλευράς σχετικού οικονομικού κόστους και οφελών.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012366/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: LNG and power cable projects of common interest

The power cable linking Israel, Cyprus and Greece and natural gas storage in Cyprus are projects that have been adopted at EU key political sessions, including the decision-making body meeting of 24 July 2013.

In view of this:

(a) What are the Commission's views regarding the prospect of natural gas extraction in the Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone?

(b) What are its views concerning EU energy planning prospects offered by the projected link between Israel, Cyprus and Greece and natural gas storage in Cyprus?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(18 December 2013)

(a) Regarding the EU position concerning the prospects of natural gas extraction in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Cyprus, the Commission refers to its answers to the written questions E-007674/2013, E-001320/2013, E-009715/2013 and E-010975/2013.

(b) The LNG Storage in the Republic of Cyprus and the EuroAsia Interconnector have both been identified as Project of Common Interest pursuant to Regulation (EU) 347/2013 in light of their benefits for the EU in terms of market integration, competition, security of supply and sustainability. This status allows them to benefit from a special permitting regime and regulatory treatment within the EU and potentially seek EU financial assistance under the Connecting Europe Facility, provided that they comply with the conditions described in the regulation. Apart from these, all potential routes should be considered and assessed both from an energy security point of view and from the point of view of their relative economic costs and benefits.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012367/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(31 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Rigassificatore di Porto Viro in provincia di Rovigo e concomitanti fenomeni di riduzione del pescato e di morìa di delfini e tartarughe nella stessa area del mar Adriatico

Circa 17 chilometri al largo della costa di Porto Levante, nel comune di Porto Viro in provincia di Rovigo, nelle immediate vicinanze del delta del Po, dal settembre 2008 esiste un'isola artificiale sulla quale è situato un rigassificatore offshore «a ciclo aperto» che riconduce il metano liquefatto allo stato gassoso utilizzando il sistema del recupero di calore dall'acqua di mare per sottrazione. L'impianto, collocato in un'area di grande valenza naturalistica, nel processo produttivo utilizza grandi quantitativi d'acqua di mare, che poi restituisce a temperature inferiori e con una maggiore presenza di cloro-derivati. Come rilevato dal WWF in un documento di approfondimento ([1]), inoltre, l'acqua di mare impiegata viene restituita sostanzialmente sterile, priva del suo contenuto di larve, gameti e sostanze nutritive, incapace di rendere all'ambiente i servizi ecosistemici che le sono propri, tra i quali, a esempio, il fungere da habitat per il plancton e lo svolgere i processi di autodepurazione, di regolazione dei cicli biogeochimici e di assorbimento di CO_2.

Il rimescolamento dell'acqua a grande velocità e forte pressione, infine, produce ingenti schiume in mare. Tali effetti sembrerebbero quindi interferire con l'ecosistema marino, in particolare con la fauna ittica, alterando il già precario equilibrio della zona del mar Adriatico interessata. Si tratta di aspetti rilevati dalle amministrazioni locali e confermati dall'ARPA (Agenzia regionale per la Prevenzione e l'Ambiente) Emilia Romagna ([2]), che destano apprensione nelle associazioni di categoria della pesca, le quali ritengono che questi possano rientrare tra le cause dell'attuale riduzione del pescato. Secondo Sauro Pari, Presidente della Fondazione Cetacea Onlus di Riccione (RN), infine, negli ultimi anni nella zona si sono verificati almeno due momenti di anomalo incremento della mortalità delle tartarughe e, recentemente, dei delfini ([3]). Tutto ciò premesso, può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se esistano studi comunitari ovvero internazionali sugli effetti dei rigassificatori «a ciclo aperto» sull'ecosisistema marino e, in caso affermativo, a quali conclusioni siano pervenuti?

2. se ritiene che possa esservi un rapporto di causa-effetto tra l'attività dell'impianto di cui sopra e i concomitanti fenomeni di scarsità del pescato e anomala morìa di delfini e tartarughe?

3. se il fenomeno della produzione di schiume si verifichi anche altrove in presenza di rigassificatori offshore?

4. se non ritiene infine preferibile la costruzione di rigassificatori «a ciclo chiuso» che utilizzino metodi alternativi a quello del recupero del calore dall'acqua di mare, come sostiene il WWF nel documento succitato?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(9 gennaio 2014)

1. La Commissione non è a conoscenza di studi specifici a livello UE o internazionale sugli effetti dei rigassificatori «a ciclo aperto» sull'ecosistema marino.

2. Al momento la Commissione non ha elementi che dimostrino un rapporto di causa-effetto tra l'attività dell'impianto e la diminuzione degli stock ittici e/o la moria di delfini e tartarughe.

3.-4. Di conseguenza la Commissione non può esprimersi su questa materia, ma esaminerà con interesse eventuali informazioni al riguardo che l'onorevole parlamentare le farà pervenire.

([1]) Cfr. WWF, «L'utilizzo di acqua di mare negli impianti di rigassificazione del GNL. Documento di approfondimento», Trieste, 4.10.2011.
([2]) Cfr. Articolo del quotidiano locale «La Nuova Ferrara» del 21.07.2013: http://lanuovaferrara.gelocal.it/cronaca/2013/07/21/news/sul-rigassificatore-la-regione-scrive-al-ministro-orlando-1.7459753
([3]) Cfr. Relazione della Fondazione Cetacea Onlus «Emergenza Tartarughe Marine» del 22.12.2009.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012367/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Operation of the Porto Viro regasification plant (Rovigo, Italy) and the related fall in catch levels and deaths of dolphins and turtles in the surrounding Adriatic waters

Since September 2008, an artificial island situated some 17 kilometres off the coast of Porto Levante (Porto Viro, Rovigo, Italy) and in close proximity to the Po Delta has housed an offshore regasification plant. The plant uses an 'open-loop' system to convert liquefied methane back into gas using seawater as the heating medium for vaporisation. The plant, which is located in an area of great environmental importance, uses vast amounts of seawater in the vaporisation process. The water which is then discharged back into the sea is much cooler and contains high levels of chlorine derivatives. What is more, a detailed WWF report ([1]) has revealed that this water is essentially sterile, having been stripped of larvae, fish eggs and nutrients. It cannot therefore play its natural role in the ecosystem, which would usually include providing a habitat for plankton, self-purification, regulating biogeochemical cycles and absorbing CO_2.

Lastly, discharging the water back into the sea at high speed and high pressure creates an enormous amount of sea spume. This reportedly has the effect of disrupting the marine ecosystem, and in particular fish populations, by disturbing even further the already precarious ecological balance in the relevant part of the Adriatic. The problem has been noted by the local authorities and verified by ARPA (the Emilia Romagna regional environment agency) ([2]). It is a major cause for concern to people in the fishing industry, who regard it as one of the likely causes of a decline in catch levels. According to Sauro Pari, president of the not-for-profit organisation Fondazione Cetacea (based in Riccione, Italy), in recent years there have been at least two occurrences of an unexplained rise in turtle and, more recently, dolphin deaths ([3]).

1. Have any EU or international studies been carried out on the effects of open-loop regasification on marine life and, if so, what conclusions did they reach?

2. Does the Commission take the view that there is a causal link between the plant's activities, as outlined above, and the decline in fish stocks and the deaths of dolphins and turtles?

3. Has it been confirmed that sea spume is produced at other offshore regasification plants?

4. Does it consider closed-loop regasification plants, which do not use seawater as the heating medium, to be a preferable alternative, as maintained by the WWF in its aforementioned report?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(9 January 2014)

1. The Commission is not aware of any specific EU or international studies which would have been carried out on the effects of open-loop regasification on marine life.

2. For the time being, the Commission has no evidence of such causal link between the plant's activities and the decline of fish stocks and/or death of dolphins and turtles.

3-4. Accordingly the Commission cannot pronounce itself on these questions, but looks forward to any information on this matter the Honourable Member may be able to put at its disposal.

([1]) Cf. WWF report, 'L'utilizzo di acqua di mare negli impianti di rigassificazione del GNL. Documento di approfondimento', (The use of seawater in LNG regasification plants), Trieste, 4 October 2011.
([2]) Cf. the following article, published 21 July 2013 in the local newspaper La Nuova Ferrara: http://lanuovaferrara.gelocal.it/cronaca/2013/07/21/news/sul-rigassificatore-la-regione-scrive-al-ministro-orlando-1.7459753
([3]) Cf. Fondazione Cetacea report 'Emergenza Tartarughe Marine' (Sea turtle emergency), 22 December 2009.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012368/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(31 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Attività di ricerca ed estrazione di idrocarburi nella regione dell'Emilia-Romagna, in area soggetta a rischio di subsidenza e a rischio sismico

Secondo quanto riferito nel dossier presentato sull'argomento in data 30.9.2013 dall'associazione ambientalista italiana Legambiente, la regione dell'Emilia-Romagna è oggetto di un'intensa attività di indagine del sottosuolo a fini di ricerca ed estrazione di idrocarburi, con significativo incremento negli ultimi anni. A fronte di una superficie territoriale complessiva di 22 122 km^2 (chilometri quadrati), infatti, circa 1 774,5 km^2 (pari al 9 % del totale) sono oggetto delle 37 concessioni di coltivazione già attive e circa 7 000 km^2 (pari al 33 % del totale) sono interessati da 35 permessi di ricerca, ai quali vanno ad aggiungersi le 12 ulteriori recenti richieste di permesso che riguardano 5 547 km^2. Riassumendo, qualora anche queste ultime venissero autorizzate, oltre metà del territorio regionale (e la quasi totalità della pianura) verrebbe interessata dallo svolgimento di tali attività ([1]).

Tra le possibili conseguenze ambientali di tali interventi denunciate nel dossier vi è il rischio di intensificazione del fenomeno della subsidenza ([2]) che già caratterizza l'area: i dati dei monitoraggi effettuati da ARPA (Agenzia regionale per la prevenzione e l'ambiente) Emilia-Romagna evidenziano come il fenomeno sia più significativo sulla fascia costiera, che negli ultimi 55 anni si è abbassata di 70 cm a Rimini e di oltre un metro a Cesenatico (FC). Una vasta porzione della provincia di Bologna (circa 600 km^2), inoltre, è caratterizzata da abbassamenti medi intorno a 20 millimetri annui, con zone di massimo sprofondamento (oltre 3 centimetri annui). Secondo ricerche dell'Università degli studi di Padova, infine, la subsidenza nell'arco temporale 1983-2008 ha raggiunto i 50 centimetri nella zona meridionale del delta del Po ([3]).

Si ricorda, inoltre, che l'area è stata oggetto di una serie di violenti fenomeni sismici nella primavera del 2012; in proposito si segnala che la subsidenza, pur trattandosi di diverso fenomeno geologico, può tuttavia essere uno dei fattori che aumentano la vulnerabilità degli edifici causando il cedimento dei terreni di fondazione, incrementando i danni in occasione di terremoti. Alla luce di quanto precede, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. Non ritiene che la presenza nell'area del fenomeno della subsidenza sconsigli il rilascio di un così consistente numero di autorizzazioni alle compagnie estrattive?

2. Può riferire se esistano studi unionali ovvero internazionali sull'argomento?

3. Non ritiene altresì che, dato che il fenomeno della subsidenza tende ad aggravare i danni in caso di terremoto, sia ulteriormente da sconsigliarsi lo svolgimento di attività estrattive in un'area a rischio sismico come quella in esame?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(12 dicembre 2013)

Le autorizzazioni rilasciate dagli Stati membri devono essere conformi alle prescrizioni del quadro giuridico vigente nell'UE, ivi comprese le disposizioni in materia di protezione della salute umana e dell'ambiente.

([1]) Cfr. dossier e comunicato stampa di Legambiente presenti al seguente link: http://www.24emilia.com/Sezione.jsp?titolo=Idrocarburi%2C+Legambiente%3A+stop+estrazioni&idSezione=52746.
([2]) Fenomeno di abbassamento di porzioni più o meno ampie di terreno, da attribuirsi al costipamento naturale sotto l'azione di carichi o, talora, all'attività dell'uomo rivolta all'estrazione di sostanze fluide o solide dal sottosuolo (per es. di ingenti quantità di acqua da falde freatiche, di prodotti petroliferi e di minerali).
([3]) Cfr. dichiarazioni alla stampa di Giancarlo Mantovani, direttore del consorzio di bonifica «Delta del Po», dal quotidiano locale «Il Gazzettino» di Rovigo del 20.8.2013, a pag. 9.

Nell'ambito dei lavori preparatori per una nuova iniziativa della Commissione concernente un quadro per l'estrazione sicura di idrocarburi non convenzionali sono stati realizzati alcuni studi, uno dei quali ha valutato i rischi inerenti alle attività estrattive del gas di scisto, individuando potenziali rischi di subsidenza, legata alla captazione di ingenti quantità d'acqua, e di eventi sismici associati; per entrambi i fenomeni, tuttavia, la percentuale di rischio è considerata bassa ([4]). Altri studi ([5]) indicano un rischio più elevato di subsidenza nel caso di estrazione di idrocarburi con rimozione di fluidi.

([4]) AEA, Support to the identification of potential risks for the environment and human health arising from hydrocarbons operations involving hydraulic fracturing in Europe, 2012, disponibile alla pagina http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/energy/pdf/fracking%20study.pdf

([5]) Land Subsidence. Proceedings of the Fifth International Symposium on Land Subsidence, L'Aia, 16-20 ottobre 1995, in particolare W. Bertoni, G. Brighenti, G. Gambolati, G. Ricceri e F. Vuillermin, «Land subsidence due to gas production in the on — and off-shore natural gas fields of the Ravenna area, Italy»; F. Gambardella, G. Mercusa, «Land subsidence in the delta area river Po: damages and repairing works», in Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Land Subsidence, Venezia, 19-25 marzo 1984.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012368/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Hydrocarbon exploration and extraction in Emilia-Romagna, an area prone to subsidence and earthquakes

According to the information contained in the report of 30 September 2013 submitted by Legambiente, an Italian environmental association, the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons in Emilia-Romagna has intensified significantly in the past few years. Of a total surface area of 22 122 km^2, approximately 1 774.5 km^2 (9% of the total area) are already having hydrocarbons extracted under 37 permits and approximately 7 000 km^2 (33% of the total area) are covered by 35 exploration permits, to which will be added the 12 other permits which have recently been requested, together covering 5 547 km^2. To sum up, if these most recent permit applications are granted, over half of the region's territory (and almost all of the level ground) would be affected by extraction ([1]).

One of the environmental impacts of hydrocarbon extraction denounced in the report is the risk of worsening the subsidence ([2]) for which the area is known: the monitoring data released by the Emilia-Romagna Regional Environmental Protection Agency, ARPA, demonstrate that coastal areas are more significantly affected: over the past 55 years, the land has sunk 70 cm in Rimini, and over a metre in Cesenatico, in the Province of Forli-Cesena. Furthermore, a large portion of the Province of Bologna (approx. 600 km^2) is characterised by average downward shifts of approximately 20 mm a year, with the worst-hit areas sinking more than three centimetres a year. According to research carried out at the University of Padua, there was a subsidence of 50 cm in the southern part of the Po Delta between 1983 and 2008 ([3]).

The area experienced a series of violent earthquakes during the spring of 2012. Although subsidence is a different geological phenomenon, it may make buildings more vulnerable, causing the land on which the foundations are built to sink and increasing the damage caused by earthquakes.

1. Does the Commission not agree that subsidence in the area should discourage theauthorities from granting such a large number of permits to hydrocarbon extractioncompanies?

2. Have any studies into the matter been conducted by the EU or any other international organisation?

3. Does the Commission not believe that, given that subsidence tends to worsen the damage caused by earthquakes, any further extraction applications ought to be rejected in areas at risk of earthquakes such as that under consideration?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(12 December 2013)

Member States' permits must comply with the requirements of the existing legal framework in the EU, including provisions on the protection of human health and the environment.

Among the studies conducted for the Commission in the context of its preparatory work for a new initiative regarding a framework for safe and secure unconventional hydrocarbon extraction, one assessed the risks related to shale gas activities and identified subsidence, linked to high water abstraction, as a potential risk, although rated low, and thus were ranked associated seismicity risks ([4]). Other studies ([5]) suggest higher risks of subsidence in case of hydrocarbon extraction with fluid withdrawal.

([1]) Cf. report and press release by Legambiente at: http://www.24emilia.com/Sezione.jsp?titolo=Idrocarburi%2C+Legambiente%3A+stop+estrazioni&idSezione=52746

([2]) A phenomenon which consists of whole areas of land — bigger or smaller — shifting downwards as a result of either natural compaction under weight or, sometimes, human activity related to the extraction of liquids or solids from below ground (such as immense quantities of water from groundwater aquifers or of oil products or minerals).

([3]) Cf. press release by Giancarlo Mantovani, Director of the Po Delta land reclamation authority, sent to local newspaper Il Gazettino in Rovigo, 20.8.2013, p. 9.

([4]) Support to the identification of potential risks for the environment and human health arising from hydrocarbons operations involving hydraulic fracturing in Europe (AEA, 2012), available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/energy/pdf/fracking%20study.pdf

([5]) Land Subsidence — Proceedings of the Fifth International Symposium on Land Subsidence, held at The Hague, The Netherlands, 16-20 October 1995; Land subsidence in the delta area river Po: damages and repairing works (F. Gambardella and G.Mercusa); Land subsidence due to gas production in the on- and off-shore natural gas fields of the Ravenna area, Italy (Werther Bertoni, Giovanni Brighenti, Giuseppe Gambolati, Giuseppe Ricceri And Fiorenzo Vuillermin).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012369/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(31 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Impianti contestati e ritardi in relazione alla realizzazione del percorso «Sui Sentieri degli Ezzelini» nell'ovest della provincia di Treviso, finanziato con fondi comunitari

Nell'ovest della provincia di Treviso è in fase di realizzazione un percorso naturalistico-turistico denominato «Sui Sentieri degli Ezzelini», che si snoda lungo il fiume Muson dei Sassi e attraversa diversi comuni a partire da Resana fino a San Zenone degli Ezzelini. La prima parte del tracciato, lunga 19 chilometri, è stata inaugurata il 19 maggio 2012 ([1]). Il progetto è realizzato sotto la regia della Regione del Veneto con uno stanziamento pari a oltre un milione di euro di fondi comunitari e italiani. Il tracciato attraversa un'area tutelata all'interno del progetto «Rete Natura 2000» quale ZPS (Zona di Protezione Speciale) ai sensi della direttiva Uccelli 2009/147/CE ([2]).

In un punto in prossimità del percorso nel comune di Loria è stato recentemente realizzato un nuovo allevamento di galline ovaiole, imponente costruzione sorta sulle ceneri di un vecchio allevamento avicolo in disuso e abbandonato da molti anni, del quale è stato quadruplicato il volume complessivo. È in corso, inoltre, l'iter di approvazione per la realizzazione di un impianto per la produzione di biogas con trattamento della pollina ([3]) prodotta dall'allevamento.

La presenza del nuovo allevamento e il progetto di realizzazione del collegato impianto a biogas volto all'utilizzo della pollina sono strenuamente avversati da parte della locale cittadinanza riunita in diverse formazioni sociali ([4]), che lamenta l'impatto visivo, olfattivo e sonoro dell'allevamento e gli effetti che il futuro impianto a biogas andrà ad avere. Sempre secondo i cittadini, inoltre, la realizzazione della seconda parte del tracciato del sentiero, prorogata più volte, sarebbe in balìa di lungaggini burocratiche che mettono a rischio l'impiego dei fondi comunitari assegnati. Tutto ciò premesso:

1. Può la Commissione specificare l'ammontare complessivo e la tipologia del finanziamento comunitario assegnato al progetto e confermare i paventati rischi di perdita della parte residua dello stesso?

2. Non intende essa contattare le autorità locali al fine di verificare l'intervenuto rispetto della normativa UE di settore in relazione al già realizzato allevamento avicolo e al realizzando impianto a biogas?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(17 dicembre 2013)

1. Il progetto in questione è stato cofinanziato dal Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale (FESR) nel quadro del programma Veneto 2000-2006, azione 3.2 «Diversificazione dell'offerta turistica e prolungamento della stagionalità» per un importo totale di 73 463,42 EUR (fondi FESR 28 728,71 EUR). Stando alle informazioni trasmesse dalle autorità regionali, il progetto si è concluso ed è attualmente operativo.

2. L'attuazione del diritto dell'Unione pertiene alle autorità degli Stati membri, che hanno l'obbligo di rispettare in pieno obblighi quali quelli derivanti dalla direttiva VIA 2011/92/UE ([5]). Alla Commissione non risulta in alcun modo che tale non sia il caso per i progetti descritti dall'onorevole deputato.

([1]) Per maggiori informazioni, cfr. http://www.bibliotecacastellodigodego.it/actual_version/godego/ezzelini.php
([2]) ZPS IT3240026 «Prai di Castello di Godego».
([3]) Materiale di scarto composto da deiezioni degli allevamenti avicoli.
([4]) Cfr. in particolare il comitato «La salute è di tutti», il forum «Salviamo il paesaggio» (associazione «Italia Nostra») e l'associazione «Godego Lab». Cfr. il blog del comitato: http://saluteditutti.blogspot.it/2013/10/impianto-biogas-100-pollina-primo-in.html;
e l'articolo del quotidiano locale «La Tribuna di Treviso» del 21.9.2013:
http://tribunatreviso.gelocal.it/cronaca/2013/09/21/news/sentiero-degli-ezzelini-stop-ai-capannoni-1.7786948
([5]) Direttiva 2011/92/UE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 13 dicembre 2011, concernente la valutazione dell'impatto ambientale di determinati progetti pubblici e privati Testo rilevante ai fini del SEE, GU L 26 del 28.1.2012.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012369/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Disputed installations and delays in completion of nature trail 'Sui Sentieri degli Ezzelini' in the western part of the province of Treviso, financed with EU funding

In the western part of the province of Treviso a tourist-oriented nature trail called 'Sui Sentieri degli Ezzelini' is being built. The trail winds along the River Muson dei Sassi and crosses several municipalities from Resana to San Zeno Ezzelini. The first part of the 19-km long trail was inaugurated on 19 May 2012 ([1]). The project is being carried out under the direction of the Veneto Region with a budget of over EUR 1 million in EU and Italian funds. The route passes through an area that is protected within the Natura 2000 network as an SPA (Special Protection Area) under the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC ([2]).

At one point near the trail, in the municipality of Loria, a new farm for egg-laying hens has recently been built. It is an imposing building which has arisen from the ashes of an old disused poultry farm that had been abandoned for many years, the overall volume of which has now been quadrupled. In addition, an approval process is currently under way for the construction of a biogas production plant to treat the poultry manure produced by the farm.

The presence of the new farm and the project to build the biogas plant for the recycling of manure are being strenuously opposed by the local population, who have been setting up various protest groups ([3]). These citizens are complaining about the adverse impact the future biogas plant and the farm will have, in terms of the view, smell and noise. The citizens also maintain that the construction of the second part of the trail, which has been postponed several times, is at the mercy of administrative delays and red tape that are jeopardising the use of the EU funds allocated.

1. Can the Commission therefore specify the total amount and type of EU funding that has been allocated to the project, and confirm that there is indeed a risk of losing the remaining funds?

2. Will it not contact the local authorities in question in order to check whether the poultry farm that has already been built and the biogas plant under construction comply with the relevant EU legislation?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

1. The project mentioned by the Honourable Member has been co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of the 2000-2006 Veneto programme, action 3.2 'Diversificazione dell'offerta turistica e prolungamento della stagionalità' for a total amount of EUR 73 463.42 (ERDF EUR 28 728.71). According to the information provided by the regional authorities, the project is completed and operational.

2. The implementation of EC law lies with the Member States authorities, which have the obligation to apply to their full extent obligations such as those provided for by the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU ([4]). The Commission does not have any indication that this would not be the case with regard to the projects described by the Honourable Member.

([1]) For further information, see http://www.bibliotecacastellodigodego.it/actual_version/godego/ezzelini.php
([2]) SPA IT3240026 'Prai di Castello di Godego'.
([3]) In particular the 'Health is for Everyone' committee, the 'Save the Landscape' forum (Italia Nostra association) and the Godego Lab association. See committee blog: http://saluteditutti.blogspot.it/2013/10/impianto-biogas-100-pollina-primo-in.html
([4]) On the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment Text with EEA relevance, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite P-012372/13
à la Commission
Rachida Dati (PPE)
(31 octobre 2013)

Objet: Communication cinéma — non à la libéralisation incontrôlée

Monsieur Barroso s'était déjà illustré en voulant sacrifier le secteur audiovisuel européen dans le cadre des négociations pour un partenariat transatlantique de commerce et d'investissement, prétextant que ses spécificités seraient une entrave à la croissance et à l'emploi. Il a d'ailleurs déjà exprimé clairement son point de vue sur la question: selon lui, protéger l'exception culturelle, c'est être «réactionnaire».

Les Européens ont été clairs: la libéralisation incontrôlée du secteur audiovisuel, c'est non. Alors, la Commission essaye de faire passer des mesures à la dérobée, sur d'autres dossiers. Ainsi en est-il de sa volonté de refondre totalement le régime de territorialité des aides publiques au cinéma. Si elle est revenue en partie sur sa position d'origine, la Commission ne démontre pas moins, depuis le début, sa volonté de voir le secteur du cinéma européen soumis à une libéralisation incontrôlée, au risque d'y perdre ce qui en fait la richesse. Les critiques soulèvent notamment une contestation du fondement juridique même de l'action de la Commission, pour laquelle il serait temps d'apporter une réponse claire et convaincante.

L'industrie cinématographique et audiovisuelle européenne est un miroir des spécificités culturelles des États membres; ces règles de territorialité ne sont donc en aucun cas une entrave à la libre circulation, mais, bien au contraire, un outil de dynamisation des territoires et de renforcement de notre cohésion culturelle.

Le manque flagrant de prise en compte par la Commission européenne des propositions et des critiques des professionnels du cinéma européen ne peut qu'être préjudiciable au rayonnement culturel de l'Union dans son ensemble. C'est pourquoi je demande à la Commission, en vue de la publication prévue de la nouvelle version de sa communication-cinéma, de préciser comment elle compte répondre, point par point, à chacune des critiques qui ont été avancées: quelle est l'opportunité d'une telle réforme de la territorialité des aides? Quel est son fondement juridique? Et en quoi les systèmes d'aides actuellement mis en œuvre sont-ils inefficaces?

Réponse donnée par M. Almunia au nom de la Commission
(29 novembre 2013)

La communication sur le cinéma de 2001, qui contient les orientations de la Commission relatives aux aides d'État en faveur de la production audiovisuelle, est venue à expiration à la fin de 2012. La Commission a dès lors dû se pencher sur un nouveau régime pour lui succéder. C'est ainsi qu'elle a réexaminé, en particulier, les obligations de territorialisation des dépenses imposées par certains États membres aux bénéficiaires d'aides d'État.

Ce réexamen trouve son fondement juridique direct dans le traité qui interdit en principe les restrictions à la libre circulation des marchandises, à la libre circulation des travailleurs et à la libre prestation des services (articles 34, 36, 45 et 56 du TFUE). Les obligations de territorialisation des dépenses constituent une restriction du marché intérieur de la production audiovisuelle, que la Commission est tenue d'apprécier.

En ce qui concerne l'efficacité des régimes d'aides des États membres imposant des obligations de territorialisation des dépenses, la Commission a fait réaliser une étude externe sur les conditions de territorialité imposées à la production audiovisuelle ([1]). L'étude n'a, dans l'ensemble, donné aucun résultat probant. Elle n'a pas permis de déterminer si les effets positifs des conditions de territorialisation primaient sur les effets négatifs. En tout état de cause, le Commission reconnaît que, dans une certaine mesure, `de telles conditions peuvent être nécessaires pour maintenir une masse critique d'infrastructures, de savoir-faire et de talent en vue de la production cinématographique dans l'État membre ou la région qui octroie l'aide. Il convient toutefois de noter que plusieurs États membres ne soumettent pas leurs régimes d'aides au cinéma à des obligations de territorialisation des dépenses.

La Commission estime que la nouvelle communication sur le cinéma offre un juste équilibre entre la dimension européenne de l'industrie du cinéma et la nécessité, pour chaque pays, de préserver les ressources et compétences qui lui sont propres.

([1]) Étude de 2008 sur l'impact économique et culturel, notamment sur les coproductions, des clauses de territorialisation des régimes d'aides d'État aux films et aux productions audiovisuelles: http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/docs/library/studies/territ/final_rep.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012372/13
to the Commission
Rachida Dati (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Cinema communication — no to uncontrolled deregulation

Mr Barroso has already made abundantly clear his willingness to sacrifice the European audiovisual sector for the sake of negotiating a transatlantic trade and investment partnership, arguing that a specific cultural exemption would merely obstruct growth and employment and roundly condemning any such idea as ‘reactionary’.

With the European public making equally clear its opposition to uncontrolled deregulation in the audiovisual sector, the Commission has been resorting to stealth in a bid to push through its measures in a different guise, seeking for example to rework completely territorial subsidy arrangements for the film industry. While making a number of concessions, the Commission has from the outset been manifestly determined achieve full deregulation in this sector, even at the risk of jettisoning those rare qualities that set it apart. As a result, critics are now contesting the legal basis of its actions, making a clear and convincing response all the more necessary.

The European film and audiovisual sector is an expression of cultural differences between the Member States. Far from being an impediment to freedom of movement, territorial arrangements are thus a means of enhancing their individuality while at the same time strengthening cultural cohesion.

However, the Commission’s decision to ride roughshod over proposals and criticisms from European film industry representatives can only undermine Europe’s cultural influence as a whole. In view of this and with regard to the forthcoming publication of its new cinema communication, what replies will the Commission make to each of the criticisms raised? What is the point of seeking to reform territorial funding arrangements? What is the legal basis for such a measure? In what way are current subsidy arrangements ineffective?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(29 November 2013)

The Commission guidance on state aid to audiovisual production, as contained in the Cinema communication of 2001, expired at the end of 2012. Therefore the Commission had to consider a successor regime. This offered the opportunity to reconsider in particular the territorial spending obligations which some Member States impose on state aid beneficiaries.

The legal basis for this review can be found directly in the Treaty, which in principle prohibits limitations of the free movement of goods, the free movement of workers, and the freedom to provide services (Articles 34, 36, 45, and 56 TFEU). Territorial spending obligations constitute a restriction of the internal market for audiovisual production which the Commission is obliged to consider.

Regarding the effectiveness of the aid schemes of Member States imposing territorial spending obligations, the Commission commissioned an external study on territorial conditions imposed on audiovisual production ([1]). Overall, the study was inconclusive. It could not demonstrate that the positive effects of territorial conditions outweighed the negative effects. In any case, the Commission acknowledges that, to a certain extent, such conditions may be necessary to maintain a critical mass of infrastructure, knowhow and talent for film production in the Member State or region granting the aid. It should however be noted that several Member States do not have territorial spending obligations in their film aid schemes.

The Commission thinks that the new Cinema communication strikes the right balance between the European dimension of the cinema industry and the need to preserve its more local resources and skills.

([1]) 2008 Study on the Economic and Cultural Impact, notably on Co-productions, of Territorialisation Clauses of state aid Schemes for Films and Audiovisual Productions, http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/docs/library/studies/territ/final_rep.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012373/13
to the Commission
Jim Higgins (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: CAP payment

What is the national average percentage of the CAP payment which has been withheld or withdrawn from farmers in each Member State each year for the last 10 years?

Would the Commission please provide a list of the percentages of the CAP payment which have been withheld or withdrawn from farmers in each Member State?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(20 December 2013)

There are no comprehensive records allowing for the calculation of the percentage of the CAP payments withheld /withdrawn from the farmers. The Commission services have calculated the ratios (%) of the amounts subject to recovery procedures (at year-end) in relation to the expenditure declared in the same year. The information submitted by the Member States changed 2006 following the implementation of Regulation 885/2006 ([1]). Therefore, the ratios only cover the financial years 2006-2012. Table 1 in annex lists the average ratio per Member state while Table 2 also gives a breakdown per financial year.

Please note:

— Amounts withheld (i.e. not paid as a result of normal control procedures) are not reported to the Commission and are not reflected in the calculation.

— Amounts withdrawn, i.e. amounts which are subject to recovery procedures, may relate to administrative errors, irregularities or to other recoveries. The information available to the Commission allows only to consider any undue payments to be recovered as a consequence of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) or Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) 2988/95 ([2]), including any sanctions and interests on these payments.

— Any amounts already reimbursed to the EU budget, or reused within the program ([3]), are also not reflected.

— It is not possible to determine in which financial year the undue payment for which a recovery is ongoing was made. Therefore, there is no correlation between the payments made in one specific financial year and the amounts reported as recoverable at the end of that year.

— The CAP-payments refer to the gross expenditure, i.e. before any reductions for financial corrections, clearance decisions or recoveries reimbursed to the funds, made under EAGF, EAFRD and TRDI.

([1]) OJ L 171, 23.6.2006.
([2]) OJ L 312, 23.12.1995.
([3]) EAFRD.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012380/13
to the Commission
Edward McMillan-Scott (ALDE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Application of the industrial emissions directive and its impact on competitiveness

Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (IED), adopted by Parliament in 2010, recasts a number of old directives including the solvent emissions directive (SED) and the integrated pollution prevention and control directive (IPPC). It became effective on 7 January 2013 for new installations and will become effective on 7 July 2015 for existing installations. The IED poses a threat to business viability and jobs in the timber treatment industry through the expanded scope of 'permits to operate'. A timber treatment business in my constituency of Yorkshire and the Humber, UK, is concerned about the IED's extension to include waterborne preservatives for plants with a 24 hour theoretical output of over 75m3. The implementation of IED licensing would increase the operating costs of the company in my constituency by GBP 5 000 in one year, on the basis that if it operated 24 hours per day its production capacity of treated timber would be in excess of 75m^3. This assumption is wrong; if the company operated at such a level it would not have sufficient post-treatment storage space.

I have been informed that the German authorities recognise the inaccuracy of this calculation and will look at actual storage capacity rather than potential plant capacity. Therefore companies such as the one in my constituency are immediately at a competitive disadvantage compared to their European partners.

Could the Commission advise:

1. whether clear guidelines have been distributed to the Member States regarding the application of such rules?

2. whether the UK authorities are contravening any EU competition laws?

3. what avenues of appeal are open to companies which will be placed at a competitive disadvantage because of the IED?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

1. Under the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU ([1]),.the calculation of the capacity may take account of situations where one part of a process represents a technical restriction to the throughput. The lack of post-treatment storage space would be one such case. Further information on this can be found on the Commission's Europa website ([2]).

2. The abovementioned directives form part of the Union policy on the environment, having as legal basis Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Article 193 of the Treaty makes it possible for Member States to maintain or introduce more stringent protective measures, provided that they are compatible with the Treaties. Such measures would not constitute breaches of EU competition law.

3. The transposition and implementation of EU legislation, including the granting of operating permits for industrial installations, fixing of administrative costs thereof, as well as the establishment of appropriate appeal mechanisms, remain the responsibility of Member States' competent authorities.

([1]) OJ L 334, 17.12.2010.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pollutants/stationary/ippc/pdf/capacity_guidance.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012382/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Alzheimer's disease breakthrough

Earlier this month, in the United Kingdom, findings published by the Medical Research Council confirmed that the first chemical known to prevent the death of brain cells had been found. The research has subsequently been noted as a breakthrough and starting point in the fight against Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases.

1. What steps have been taken at EU level to encourage and assist research taking place across the Member States which aims to find a cure for Alzheimer's?

2. Can the Commission please highlight what action has been taken at EU level to provide effective support and assistance to those across the Member States who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative conditions?

3. What EU funding will be made available in the next seven years — 2014-2020 — for projects that will provide health support to patients and conduct research into finding a possible cure for Alzheimer's?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

Since 2007, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7) invested EUR 401 million in research on neurodegenerative diseases, including EUR 201 million on Alzheimer's disease. For example, the project LUPAS ([1]) aims at developing methods for diagnostic, prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's and prion diseases. The Commission also supports the Joint Programming Initiative on Neurodegenerative Diseases, in particular Alzheimer's ([2]), a Member State-led initiative that aims at increasing the impact of European research in this area by coordinating efforts across countries.

In 2009, the Commission launched its European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias ([3]). Within this framework, the EU-Health Programme co-financed between 2011 and 2013 the Joint Action ALCOVE ([4]), which developed recommendations, e.g. on the timely diagnosis of dementia. Currently, the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing is gathering public and private stakeholders from across the EU to develop and translate innovation from their regions into concrete solutions, for instance in assisting elderly people in living healthy and independent lives or in creating dementia-friendly environments.

Horizon 2020, the new EU programme for research and innovation (2014-2020), will offer further opportunities for research on neurodegenerative diseases (including Alzheimer's disease), mainly through the societal challenge 1 'Health, demographic change and well-being' ([5]), as well as through the European Research Council whose budget is planned to double.

([1]) http://www.lupas-amyloid.eu/
([2]) http://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/
([3]) COM(2009) 380 final of 22 July 2009.
([4]) http://www.alcove-project.eu/
([5]) For example, the draft Work Programme 2014-2015 of Societal Challenge 1 'Health, Demographic Change and Well-being' includes topics such as 'Understanding health, ageing and disease: determinants, risk factors and pathways', 'New therapies for chronic non-communicable diseases' and 'Comparing the effectiveness of existing healthcare interventions in the elderly' — just to name a few.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012383/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Milk quota compensation

Given the investment in milk quotas since their introduction, does the Commission have any plans to compensate farmers who invested heavily in milk quotas at a huge cost to their farm businesses?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(6 December 2013)

Investments in milk quotas are private business decisions of farmers/entrepreneurs at their own risk.

The decision to end milk quota on 31 March 2015 was taken more than 10 years ago and regularly reconfirmed. Therefore the value of quota in those Member States where they were traded has gone down to zero or close to zero.

There is no legitimate expectation that quota would have any value beyond 2015. An investment in quota should have taken this into account.

Moreover, in the framework of the reform of the common agricultural policy, no proposals were made to grant such compensation to dairy farmers, neither by the Council, nor by the European Parliament.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012384/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Malaria vaccine

Earlier this month, UK company GlaxoSmithKline confirmed that it is seeking regulatory approval to market the world's first malaria vaccine. This development comes as trial data indicated that the vaccine had led to a decrease in the number of confirmed cases of the disease among African children.

1. What action has been taken at EU level to tackle malaria, the mosquito-borne parasitic disease which kills thousands of people across the world every year? Has the Commission given due consideration to the possibility of immunisation using a vaccine with a view to eradicating the disease?

2. What EU funding will be made available within the next EU budget for 2014-2020 to tackle the prevalence of malaria in countries outside the EU, and particularly among children and young people?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

The EU helps strengthen the health systems in developing countries so that they reach out to those that are most vulnerable to malaria. Interventions of proven effectiveness include early diagnosis and treatment, insecticide-treated bed nets, and indoor-residual spraying. A malaria vaccine will be an important additional tool once it will reach the market. Through the European Development Fund, the EU provides substantial financial resources to fight diseases through country programmes, via the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations, and the WHO.

The EU further supports research to improve the treatment, diagnostic and prevention of malaria, with specific efforts to include endemic countries as participants in the projects. Through the EU Framework Programmes for Research, more than EUR 200 million has been granted to 86 malaria research projects, and the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership has dedicated EUR 49.4 million to malaria research.

In 2014-2020, the Commission intends to continue to give priority to malaria research and to support for effective control interventions. The aim of all EU support will remain to ensure that effective diagnostics, treatment, and vaccines are developed; that they will be accessible to the poor; and eventually used effectively to control malaria globally.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012385/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: EU military integration

In September, the EPP Group in the European Parliament endorsed a report containing proposals on the establishment of a new headquarters for EU civilian and military crisis operations and placing national stand-by forces under EU command.

In this context, what assurances can the Commission provide that, moving forward, Member States will retain complete sovereignty over defence policy, including the capacity to formulate and control their own national security strategies free from any EU obligations?

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

Effective CSDP ([1]) requires the ability of the EU to deploy the right assets at the right time and to do this effectively on the whole range of crisis management operations.

Earlier in 2013, Member States endorsed the revised suggestions for Crisis Management Operations as well as the revised Exercise Policy, both documents which aim to establish synergies and complementarity and allow for more effective EU external action. At the same time, the HR/VP's Report on CSDP, in preparation of the December 2013 European Council on Security and Defence, included several proposals and actions aimed at strengthening CSDP.

Neither of these documents refers to the prospect of establishing a new headquarters for military and/or civilian crisis operations or to placing national stand-by forces under EU command. The aim of the December 2013 European Council is to make better use of current instruments at the disposal of the EU and to simplify procedures in order to streamline decision-making procedures. Creating additional institutional structures has not been advanced as a priority by the Commission, the High Representative or by the majority of Member States.

At the same time, the Treaty on European Union (Article 42) states that the common foreign and security policy of the EU shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and shall respect the obligations of those which see their common defence realised in NATO ([2]). Moreover, although CSDP has among its objectives to progressively frame a common EU defence policy, a common defence will be established, according to the revised TEU, only when the European Council will approve this unanimously.

([1]) Common Security and Defence Policy.
([2]) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012386/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Implementation of EU Directive 2012/29/EU

EU Directive 2012/29/EU establishes the minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. Most notably, it safeguards specific support for victims of terrorism and for those who have been trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation.

Can the Commission please provide a status report as to the uptake and implementation of this directive by the 28 Member States? In doing so, can the Commission please detail specifically those EU countries that have not implemented the directive, and cite the reasons for any disparities in compliance?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(20 December 2013)

The directive 2012/29/EU ([1]) should be implemented by Member States by 16 November 2015. The Commission is taking all necessary steps to ensure that this directive is properly implemented and applied by the Member States within the deadline.

To this end the Commission is assisting Member States in their implementation process through the organisation of experts' meetings, specific workshops on best practices in victims' protection and support. The Commission is assisting the Member States by issuing guidance documents and promoting training. The Commission is also providing financial support to projects through various funding programmes. After the expiry of the implementation period in November 2015, the Commission is ready to assume its obligations with regard to the active monitoring of Member States' compliance with this directive.

([1]) The directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012387/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Support for Thalidomide victims

The drug Thalidomide was given to pregnant women to tackle morning sickness between 1956 and 1962. By the time it was withdrawn from the market in 1962, it had resulted in the deaths of thousands of babies and infants, and almost 10 000 worldwide were born with terrible deformities and a range of disabilities attributed to the drug.

In this context, can the Commission please detail what action has — and will — be taken at EU level to provide effective support and assistance to victims of Thalidomide and their families? In doing so, can the Commission please outline what — if any — funding will be made available in the next programming period (2014-2020) to support projects that aim to tackle the legacy of Thalidomide across Europe?

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

The thalidomide tragedy was one of the main reasons for setting up the EU pharmaceutical legislation, which has been improved ever since to ensure that medicinal products that are placed on the market are guaranteeing high standards of quality and safety.

As stated in its reply to Parliamentary Question E-4855/2012 ([1]), the Commission is aware of the impact of the use of thalidomide during pregnancy and that some Member States have established compensation schemes for citizens that have been affected by the use of thalidomide.

Health policy, as well as the organisation and delivery of healthcare, is a Member State competence under Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. As such, injury compensation schemes are not a matter of EU competence. Therefore, the Commission is not in a position to establish a compensation scheme at the European level.

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

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012388/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Research into the trans-generational impact of terrorism

In my constituency, Northern Ireland, almost 2 000 people were murdered during decades of Irish Republican terrorism. This inevitably brought incalculable pain and suffering to hundreds, if not thousands, of families across our region of the UK. Many were widowed, others lost parents, siblings and grandparents, but all have had to live with the dreadful reality that terrorism has presented in their lives.

In this context, can the Commission please identify any research that has been conducted at EU level to assess the trans-generational impact of terrorism upon victims and their families? In doing so, can the Commission detail whether any studies have been completed to adjudge the specific impact of trauma emanating from the loss of a loved one through terrorism on educational attainment, social inclusion and personal development?

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

The Commission is cognizant of the pain and suffering brought upon the families of victims of terrorism, and recognises the long-term traumatic impact of such tragedies on households and relatives. The Commission has taken upon itself a commitment to support these families in their grieving process, which can be exemplified by the devotion of 11 March as the European Day on Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism.

Within the scope of the EU Programme for Prevention of and Fight against Crime (ISEC), the Commission has granted funding for a project carried out by the Handa Center for the Study of Terrorism and political Violence (St Andrews University, UK) ([1]), relating to the victimization experience and Victims of Political Violence (VOPV). This study, of which the results will be presented in 2014, aims among others to identify measures on how to meet the needs of families of victims.

Up to date, however, no research has been finalised to adjudge the specific impact of trauma emanating from the loss of a loved one through terrorism.

([1]) HOME/2012/ISEC/AG/RAD/4000003818.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012389/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: The political situation in Libya

More than two years after Colonel Gaddafi was deposed, Libya remains without a permanent constitution. In recent months, the political process has become paralysed by intense divisions between Islamic and secular groupings in the country's parliament. The legacy of past fighting also lives on in the form of numerous active militias which continue to control many parts of the country.

1. What steps have been taken at EU level to encourage the establishment of a democratic and fair constitution in Libya and to restore greater functionality to the political process?

2. What action has the Commission taken to promote respect for law and order, the rule of law, and support for democratic processes as essential elements of the rebuilding process in Libya?

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

The EU is concerned by the significant deterioration of both the political and security situation in Libya. The EU has underlined the need for the Libyan Government and General National Congress to work jointly to achieve a peaceful and democratic political transition.

The EU looks forward to the upcoming elections for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly and to the start of the drafting process of a new and democratic Libyan constitution. The EU has called for an inclusive and credible electoral process where all Libyans, including minorities and women, work collectively for the fulfilment of the revolution's democratic aspirations. In this regard the EU is currently providing support to the High National Electoral Commission to prepare the upcoming elections. The EU will also launch an Exploratory Mission which should advise on the possible presence of EU observers on Election Day.

A very substantial part of the overall support EU package for Libya (EUR 106 million) is directly addressing the rule of law (e.g. EUR 10 million programme on reform of the police and justice sector) as well as supporting the ongoing transitional process (e.g. EUR 3.1 million program to strengthen the capacity of emerging civil soviety organisations to deliver services and contribute to promoting good governance in Libya).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012390/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Impact of EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement on agriculture

Earlier this month, negotiations ended on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between EU and Canada. Once approved, it is claimed that this agreement will boost growth and employment through a variety of provisions, including lower trade tariffs and less red tape.

Can the Commission please confirm whether an impact assessment has been carried out to gauge the potential consequences of the EU-Canada CETA upon agriculture across the Member States? If so, can the Commission please detail any presumed benefits or disadvantages, and the timeline as regards when the legislation is likely to take effect?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(18 December 2013)

Trade Sustainability Impact Assessments, covering all relevant economic sectors concerned including agriculture, are systematically carried out whenever the EU engages on a free trade agreement negotiation. The negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU have been no exception to that principle.

The full report on CETA has been made public and can be accessed on the following Internet link: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2011/september/tradoc_148201.pdf where all the details pertaining the information requested by the Honourable Member can be consulted.

As regards the timeline for the entry into force of the agreement, further steps have to be completed before CETA will enter into force. The negotiating parties are currently finalising the negotiation on the remaining technical issues. Once this will be completed, the text will be reviewed by legal experts (so-called legal scrubbing).

The negotiating text, finalised as described above, will be initialled by the Canadian and EU negotiators. Following authorisation of the Council for signature and conclusion of the Agreement, and after the European Parliament consent the Agreement will enter into force. According to the Commission current estimation, the Agreement will not enter into force before the end of 2015.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012391/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Uptake of advanced single farm payments

Can the Commission please identify those Member States and regions that have not availed of advanced single farm payments for the claim year 2013?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(5 December 2013)

The Commission cannot provide this information now, since the verified data will not be available before the beginning of January 2014.

In accordance with Article 4(c) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 883/2006 [1], the advances paid by Member States for direct aids in respect of calendar year 2013 for the period from 16 October 2013 until 1 December 2013 will be communicated to the Commission on 20 December 2013 at the latest.

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[1] OJ L 171, 23.6.2006, p. 1-34.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012392/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Racism in sport

Last week, Manchester City footballer Yaya Touré alleged that he was racially abused by CSKA Moscow fans during a recent Champions League match. He subsequently met Jeffrey Webb, Head of FIFA's anti-racism task force, to discuss the incident and hear about FIFA's planned education initiative.

In this context, can the Commission please detail what steps have been taken at EU level to support the aim of eradicating racism in all sports, at all levels? In doing so, can the Commission please outline what EU funding will be available within the 2014-2020 programming period to promote the realisation of this aim?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

As indicated in reply E-000026/2013 ([1]), the Commission reviewed the situation in the Member States regarding racism in all sports through a study launched by the Fundamental Rights Agency on Sport and Racism in 2010.

In addition, under the 2010 and 2011 Preparatory Actions in the field of sport and the Lifelong Learning Programme, the Commission provided financial support to a number of prevention and education projects. These projects addressed racism and intolerance in sport and education, and involved supporters, schools and clubs.

In the framework of its structured dialogue with sport stakeholders, the Commission is in close contact with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) about various topics. These include the fight against racism in international competitions and at major sport events, such as EURO 2012.

In future EU programmes, and in particular Erasmus+, the fight against racism in sport will remain a priority area, with potential to support innovative projects for exchange and development of new practices.

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

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012394/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Female drivers in Saudi Arabia

In recent days, many women in Saudi Arabia have defied the government's ban on female drivers, taking to their cars in protest. The action comes after approximately 17 000 people signed a petition calling for women to be allowed to drive and for an explanation on the current ban to be provided. Recent protests have been met by threats of sanctions by the Interior Ministry, and some women have claimed to have received intimidating phone calls from government sources.

In this context, can the Commission please detail what steps are being taken at EU level to promote an end to institutionalised discrimination against women in society in Saudi Arabia, and in other countries in the Middle East?

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

Gender-related issues are regularly discussed by the EU bilaterally with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and, at the regional level, with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Even though the situation of women in Saudi Arabia remains problematic and often a source of concern, the EU has welcomed the decision taken by the Saudi King to appoint one third of women to the Shura Council in January 2013, the possibility for them to vote and stand for office at the 2015 Municipal elections and, more recently, the decision to grant women lawyers licenses to practice in courtrooms.

The principle of non-discrimination on the basis of gender is one of the fundamental principles of the EU. The EU is therefore of the clear view that it is unacceptable to discriminate against women in any area. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) sets out this principle — along with many others — in international law.

The EU believes that all states — including Saudi Arabia — should ratify and implement CEDAW, without reservations. This issue — and more generally that of discrimination vis-à-vis women in the country — was raised by EU Member States during the Universal Periodic Review that Saudi Arabia underwent at the UN Human Rights Council in 2013.

The EU will continue to discuss these matters with the Saudi authorities at all levels.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012395/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Regulation (EC) No 261/2004

Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishes common rules for compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of long delays and cancellation of flights within the EU.

1. What rights — including those safeguarding access to effective assistance — are afforded to air passengers in my constituency, Northern Ireland, under the provisions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 261/2004?

2. Can the Commission please detail the process by which 'extraordinary circumstances' (under which airlines may be exempt from paying compensation) are defined and assessed in any given situation under Regulation (EC) No 261/2004? What mechanism, if any, is in place to ensure that a common definition is utilised by all airlines?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(16 December 2013)

Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 (the 'Regulation') applies to all air passengers travelling from any EU airport, or when travelling from a third country airport to an EU airport with a Community air carrier. It is applicable under certain conditions in case of flight cancellation, long delay, denied boarding or downgrading. Passengers whose flight is cancelled or who are denied boarding should be offered the choice between a reimbursement of the ticket, a re-routing at the earliest opportunity, or a re-booking at the passenger's convenience. When passengers are waiting for a re-routing or a delayed flight, they are entitled to care (phone call, refreshments, meal, accommodation, transportation to the place of accommodation). Furthermore, passengers whose flight is disrupted have the right to compensation under certain conditions, unless the cancellation or delay is due to extraordinary circumstances in the sense of the regulation.

The European Court has clarified in the Case C-549/07 (Wallentin-Herman) the notion of extraordinary circumstances ([1]). The National Enforcement Bodies (NEBs) are in charge of enforcing the regulation as interpreted by the Court. The Commission holds regular meetings with the NEBs in order to ensure a convergent application of the regulation.

The proposal for a revision of the regulation ([2]) clearly defines the term in line with the European Court's decision. Furthermore, for further legal certainty, the proposal introduces a non-exhaustive list of circumstances to be regarded as extraordinary and of circumstances to be regarded as non-extraordinary ([3]). The Commission should also be entitled to make recommendations in this respect after consulting the NEBs.

([1]) i.e. circumstances which, by their nature or origin, are not inherent in the normal exercise of the activity of the air carrier concerned and are beyond its actual control.

([2]) Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights and Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air COM/2013/0130 final — 2013/0072 (COD).

([3]) Article 1(1e) of the proposal — Article 2(m) of the amended Regulation 261/2004 — and Annex 1.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012396/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Banning mobile phone roaming charges

The Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, Neelie Kroes, recently published proposals which would see mobile telephone roaming charges scrapped across the EU. The intention is to ban inflated fees for calls, texts and Internet access, and to ensure that EU consumers can enjoy the same charges at home and abroad.

In this context, can the Commission please respond to the following questions:

1. Can the Commission please provide an update as to the current status of its proposal to end mobile telephone roaming charges, including a predicted timeline of events with regard to the implementation of the legislation?

2. What other steps are being taken at EU level to better promote a European digital infrastructure that benefits consumers and businesses in each of the Member States?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(4 December 2013)

The Commission would like to refer the Honourable Member to the answers given in reply to questions E-009826/2013 and E-007644/2013 ([1]).

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

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-012397/13
an die Kommission
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)
(31. Oktober 2013)

Betrifft: Speicherung von Fluggastdaten in Ungarn

Die ungarische Regierung baut — laut Innenstaatssekretär Károly Kontrát — eine nationale Datenbank zur Sammlung von Flugpassagierdaten auf, wofür die Europäische Union fünf Millionen Euro Fördermittel bereitstellt. Als Begründung dieses Vorhabens gibt die ungarische Regierung an, dass man der EU-Vereinbarung zum automatischen Informationsaustausch mit den USA, Kanada und Australien nachkomme, weshalb das nationale System der Speicherung und Übermittlung von Fluggastdaten entsprechend ausgebaut und kompatibel gemacht werden müsse. Im Gesetzesentwurf ist eine Speicherdauer von fünf Jahren vorgesehen.

1. Wie bewertet die Kommission das System zur Speicherung von Passagierdaten in Ungarn?

2. Hat die EU bei der Vergabe der Fördermittel die besonderen Umstände in Ungarn bedacht?

3. Hat die EU die Vergabe der Fördermittel an Auflagen gekoppelt?

4. Wie wird sichergestellt, dass das System nur dem Zweck dient, das organisierte Verbrechen und den Terrorismus zu bekämpfen?

5. Welche Konsequenzen zieht die Kommission daraus? ([1])

Antwort von Frau Malmström im Namen der Kommission
(9. Dezember 2013)

1. Gemäß den der Kommission vorliegenden Informationen verfügt Ungarn bisher über kein automatisches System zur Verarbeitung von Fluggastdatensätzen (PNR-Daten).

2. Ungarn reichte im Rahmen der gezielten Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen zur Einrichtung von PNR-Zentralstellen in den Mitgliedstaaten für die Verarbeitung von PNR-Daten einen Finanzierungsantrag ein. Die gezielte Aufforderung ist Teil des Programms „Kriminalprävention und Kriminalitätsbekämpfung“ (ISEC). Der Antrag wurde von internen und externen Bewertern geprüft, und er entsprach den Förderfähigkeits-, Auswahl- und Vergabekriterien, auch im Hinblick auf die in der Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen enthaltenen Prioritäten und erwarteten Ergebnisse. Daher wurde der Antrag zur Finanzierung ausgewählt.

3. In der Finanzhilfevereinbarung zwischen der Kommission und Ungarn ist vorgesehen, dass nach der automatischen Zahlung einer Vorfinanzierung die Zwischen- und die Abschlusszahlung von der Bewertung der Umsetzung der in der Finanzhilfevereinbarung angeführten Maßnahmen abhängig ist.

4. Eine der in der Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen enthaltenen Prioritäten sieht vor, dass die Verwendung der PNR-Daten sich auf die Prävention, Aufdeckung, Ermittlung und Verfolgung terroristischer Straftaten und schwerer Kriminalität beziehen soll. Der von Ungarn auf die Aufforderung hin eingereichte Antrag entsprach dieser Priorität.

5. Die Kommission wird die Umsetzung der nationalen Projekte, die im Rahmen der Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen kofinanziert werden, genau verfolgen.

([1]) http://www.pesterlloyd.net/html/1342bigbrothereumios.html

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012397/13
to the Commission
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Storage of passenger data in Hungary

According to the Secretary of State of the Ministry of the Interior, Károly Kontrát, the Hungarian Government is setting up a national database — funded to the tune of EUR 5 million by the EU — for the collection of passenger data. To justify its plans, the Hungarian Government has stated that it is complying with the EU agreement on the automatic exchange of information with the US, Canada and Australia, under which Hungary's passenger data storage and transfer system needs to be made compatible and developed accordingly. The draft law provides for a data retention period of five years.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the Hungarian passenger data storage system?

2. Did the EU take account of the specific situation in Hungary when it allocated resources?

3. Are any conditions linked to the allocation of funding?

4. What measures are being taken to ensure that the system is used solely for the purposes of fighting organised crime and terrorism?

5. What action will the Commission take in response to this? ([1])

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

1. According to information available to the Commission, Hungary does not currently have an automated system in place for the processing of passenger name record (PNR) data.

2. Hungary submitted a funding application in reply to the targeted call for proposals to set up Passenger Information Units in Member States for the processing of PNR data. The targeted call is part of the funding programme on the 'Prevention of and Fight against Crime' (ISEC). The application was assessed by internal and external evaluators. The application met the eligibility, selection and award criteria, including the conformity with the priorities and expected results listed in the call for proposals. The application was therefore retained for funding.

3. The Grant Agreement between the Commission and Hungary foresees that, although the payment of a pre-financing is automatic, the interim payment and the payment of the balance are conditional to the assessment of the implementation of the activities detailed in the Grant Agreement.

4. One of the priorities listed in the call for proposals is that the use of PNR data should be the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime. The application submitted by Hungary in reply to the call for proposals was in conformity with this priority.

5. The Commission will closely follow the implementation of national projects co-funded under the call for proposals.

([1]) http://www.pesterlloyd.net/html/1342bigbrothereumios.html

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012399/13
à la Commission
Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE)
(31 octobre 2013)

Objet: Mise en danger de la loutre d'Europe dans le Lot-et-Garonne

L'usine d'enrobage LGE, située à Samazan dans le Lot-et-Garonne, est classée Installation Classée pour la Protection de l'Environnement (ICPE) et est en activité depuis 2008. Le code de l'environnement français définit ainsi les ICPE: «Les usines, ateliers, dépôts, chantiers et, d'une manière générale, les installations exploitées ou détenues par toute personne physique ou morale, publique ou privée, qui peuvent présenter des dangers ou des inconvénients soit pour la commodité du voisinage, soit pour la santé, la sécurité, la salubrité publiques, soit pour l'agriculture, soit pour la protection de la nature, de l'environnement et des paysages, soit pour l'utilisation rationnelle de l'énergie, soit pour la conservation des sites et des monuments ainsi que des éléments du patrimoine archéologique». En l'occurrence, les vapeurs de bitumes qui émanent de l'usine peuvent présenter des risques de toxicité. L'expertise de l'Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES), rendue publique le 11 septembre 2013, reconnaît d'ailleurs un risque sanitaire associé à une exposition des travailleurs au bitume.

La Société pour l'Étude, la Protection et l'Aménagement de la Nature en Lot-et-Garonne (Sepanlog), association environnementale agréée par l'État au titre de l'article 40 de la loi du 10 juillet 1976, a constaté dans le périmètre de l'usine la présence de la loutre d'Europe. Ceci est confirmé par l'attestation délivrée par l'association, datée du 24 juin 2013, sur «la réalité de la présence de cette espèce, matérialisée par la récupération d'un cadavre de femelle adulte sur la voie départementale traversant le bourg de Pont des Sables». De plus, l'installation se trouve en zone inondable et l'habitat de la loutre est mis en péril à chaque inondation. En effet, lorsque l'eau revient dans le lit de la rivière, elle y ramène les eaux potentiellement polluées du site de LGE, où ont été submergés les bassins d'orages. Cette espèce (Lutra Lutra) est protégée au niveau communautaire puisqu'elle est inscrite à l'annexe IV de la Directive Habitats (92/43/CEE) en tant « qu'espèce animale et végétale d'intérêt communautaire qui nécessite une protection stricte». Pourtant, aucune étude d'impact n'a été menée.

Comment la Commission européenne compte-t-elle s'assurer que la loutre d'Europe n'est pas mise en danger dans le Lot-et-Garonne par la proximité de cette usine?

Réponse donnée par M. Potočnik au nom de la Commission
(10 décembre 2013)

Si la puissance thermique nominale des activités de combustion à l'intérieur de l'installation excède 50 MW, cette installation relèvera du champ d'application de la directive 2008/1/CE relative à la prévention et à la réduction intégrées de la pollution (IPPC) ([1]) et de la directive 2010/75/UE sur les émissions industrielles ([2]), qui remplacera la directive IPPC à compter du 7 janvier 2014. Au titre de ces directives, les installations doivent fonctionner conformément à une autorisation délivrée par les autorités compétentes qui est assortie de valeurs limites d'émission fondées sur les meilleures techniques disponibles et destinées à prévenir et, si cela n'est pas possible, à réduire les émissions et les incidences sur l'environnement en général.

La loutre d'Europe *(Lutra lutra)* bénéficie d'un régime de protection stricte au titre de l'article 12 de la directive «Habitats» (92/43/CEE ([3])) qui interdit la détérioration ou la destruction des sites de reproduction ou des aires de repos. Les États membres peuvent déroger au régime de protection stricte pour des raisons impératives d'intérêt public majeur, y compris de nature sociale ou économique, à condition qu'il n'existe pas une autre solution satisfaisante et que la dérogation ne nuise pas au maintien, dans un état de conservation favorable, des populations des espèces concernées. Les autorités françaises ont réalisé une analyse d'impact sur l'environnement. Il ressort des documents dont dispose la Commission que la protection de la loutre d'Europe a été prise en considération au cours du processus d'aménagement. Aucune mesure spécifique n'a été jugée nécessaire car rien n'indique la présence de sites de reproduction ou d'aires de repos de la loutre d'Europe. Sur la base des informations actuelles, la Commission ne constate aucune violation de la législation.

([1]) JO L 24 du 29.1.2008.
([2]) JO L 334 du 17.12.2010.
([3]) JO L 206 du 22.7.1992.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012399/13
to the Commission
Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: European otter under threat in Lot-et-Garonne

Located in Samazan in the Lot-et-Garonne department, the LGE coating plant is classified as an 'Installation Classée pour la Protection de l'Environnement' (ICPE) and has been operating since 2008. The French environmental code defines ICPEs as follows: 'factories, workshops, depots, work sites and, in general, all facilities operated or owned by any public or private person or entity, which might present hazards or drawbacks for the convenience of the neighbourhood, or for public health and safety, or for agriculture, or for the protection of nature and the environment, or for the rational use of energy, or for the conservation of sites and monuments or elements of the archaeological heritage'. Specifically, the bitumen fumes given off by the factory may present a toxicity risk. Furthermore, an assessment published on 11 September 2013 by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) acknowledges that workers exposed to bitumen may be subject to health risks.

The Society for the Study, Protection and Development of Nature in Lot-et-Garonne (SEPANLOG), an environmental association approved by the French State under Article 40 of the law of 10 July 1976, has recorded the presence of European otters in the area surrounding the factory. This was confirmed in a statement issued by the association on 24 June 2013, which asserts that 'this species is definitely present, as demonstrated by the discovery of the body of a female adult on the secondary road that crosses the village of Pont des Sables'. Moreover, the plant is situated on a flood plain and the otter's habitat is put at risk every time the river floods. When the water returns to the river bed, it brings with it potentially polluted water from the LGE site, where storm water tanks have been flooded. This species (Lutra Lutra) is protected at EU level because it is classified as an 'animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection' under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). However, no impact assessment has been carried out.

How does the Commission plan to ensure that the European otter is not put at risk in the Lot-et-Garonne department as a result of this plant?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(10 December 2013)

Provided that the rated thermal input of the combustion activities within the installation exceeds 50 MW, the installation would fall under the scope of the IPPC Directive 2008/1/EC ([1]) and of Directive 2010/75/EU ([2]) on industrial emissions, which replaces the IPPC Directive as from 7 January 2014. Under those directives, installations are required to operate in accordance with a permit issued by the competent authorities including emission limit values based on the best available techniques, designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, generally to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole.

The Otter (*Lutra lutra*) benefits from a strict protection regime under Article 12 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC ([3])) which prohibits the deterioration or destruction of breeding sites or resting places. Member States may derogate from the strict protection regime for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, provided that there is no satisfactory alternative and the derogation is not detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favorable conservation status. An environment impact assessment has been carried out by the French authorities. The protection of the Otter has been taken into consideration during the planning process according to documents available to the Commission. No specific measures were considered necessary as there are no indications of the presence of Otters' breeding sites or resting places. Based on current information the Commission does not identify any breach of legislation.

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2008.
([2]) OJ L 334, 17.12.2010.
([3]) OJ L 206, 22.7.1992.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012400/13
à la Commission
Rachida Dati (PPE)
(31 octobre 2013)

Objet: Accord d'investissement UE-Chine: protection des indications géographiques

À la suite de l'établissement des relations diplomatiques entre l'Union européenne et la Chine en 1975, un partenariat stratégique sino-européen a vu le jour en 2003. Nous marquons cette année les dix ans d'une coopération toujours accrue dans de nombreux domaines tels que le commerce, les affaires étrangères ou encore le changement climatique. Ainsi, la Chine est un partenaire toujours plus important pour l'Union européenne, et elle est actuellement son deuxième partenaire commercial.

Cette relation avec la Chine n'a toutefois pas toujours été linéaire, comme en témoigne encore le récent différend commercial concernant les panneaux solaires chinois, problème qui semble aujourd'hui résolu grâce à un accord sur des prix minimums à l'importation.

Le 24 octobre dernier, le vice-premier ministre chinois Ma Kai s'est rendu à Bruxelles pour rencontrer Olli Rehn et Karel De Gucht. Cette rencontre a été l'occasion de saluer la décision prise par le Conseil le 18 octobre dernier d'adopter un mandat autorisant la Commission à entreprendre des négociations avec la Chine sur un accord d'investissement ambitieux.

Lors de l'adoption d'une résolution au début du mois à Strasbourg, nous avons fait part de nos inquiétudes et recommandations sur de nombreux sujets concernant cet accord d'investissement. Tout comme nous sommes vigilants sur l'accord entre l'Union européenne et les États-Unis, nous devons également faire preuve de prudence en ce qui concerne l'accord sino-européen.

Nous avons notamment fait état de notre préoccupation concernant les indications géographiques relatives aux produits. Il est essentiel qu'avec cet accord sino-européen, les Européens restent bien informés de la provenance des produits qu'ils consomment, et que les denrées alimentaires de qualité qui bénéficient actuellement de ces indications continuent d'être promues et protégées.

Ainsi, la Commission peut-elle dès aujourd'hui nous renseigner sur les mesures qu'elle mettra en place pour garantir les indications géographiques relatives aux produits dans le cadre de l'accord d'investissement qui va être négocié avec la Chine?

Réponse donnée par M. De Gucht au nom de la Commission
(17 décembre 2013)

La Commission fondera son action sur les directives de négociation élaborées par le Conseil et tiendra compte de la résolution du Parlement européen. L'accord d'investissement global entre l'Union et la Chine a pour principal objectif d'éliminer les obstacles à l'accès au marché et d'assurer un niveau élevé de protection des investisseurs et de leurs investissements sur les marchés de l'Union et de la Chine. Il devrait permettre de remplacer les 27 traités d'investissement bilatéraux conclus entre les différents États membres et la Chine par un accord d'investissement global avec l'Union. L'objectif est de renforcer les flux d'investissement bilatéraux en accentuant l'ouverture du marché et en mettant en place un cadre juridique plus simple, plus sûr et plus prévisible pour les investisseurs, en vue de pérenniser les relations d'investissement.

Toutefois, l'accord d'investissement global entre l'Union et la Chine n'est pas un accord de libre-échange et n'aura pas d'incidence sur le régime des échanges bilatéraux de marchandises. Il ne portera donc pas sur les indications géographiques (IG) pour les produits agricoles ou les denrées alimentaires. Cela étant dit, l'Union négocie actuellement avec la Chine un accord indépendant qui devrait assurer une protection directe des IG. Il sera annexé à l'accord global et apportera ainsi une réelle valeur ajoutée par rapport à la situation actuelle, qui consiste à suivre les procédures internes chinoises. L'Union et la Chine sont en pourparlers depuis plus de trois ans et les négociations sont désormais entrées dans leur phase finale.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012400/13
to the Commission
Rachida Dati (PPE)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: EU-China investment agreement: protection of geographical indications

Following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the European Union and China in 1975, a Sino-European strategic partnership was set up in 2003. This year, we are marking 10 years of growing cooperation in many areas, including trade, foreign affairs and climate change. China is therefore an increasingly important partner for the European Union and is currently its second largest trading partner.

However, this relationship with China has not always been straightforward, as can be seen by the recent trade disagreement over Chinese solar panels, which now appears to have been resolved through an agreement on minimum import prices.

On 24 October 2013, the Chinese Vice-Premier, Ma Kai, visited Brussels to meet with Olli Rehn and Karel De Gucht. This meeting was an opportunity to welcome the Council's decision of 18 October 2013 to adopt a mandate authorising the Commission to enter into negotiations with China over an ambitious investment agreement.

We raised our concerns and recommendations on various topics relating to this investment agreement when a resolution was adopted in Strasbourg at the beginning of the month. Just as we are approaching the agreement between the European Union and the United States of America with care, so we must also be cautious about the Sino-European agreement.

In particular, we raised our concerns over geographical indications on products. With this Sino-European agreement, it is vital that EU citizens remain well-informed of the origin of the products that they consume and that we continue to promote and protect those quality foodstuffs that currently benefit from these indications.

Can the Commission tell us today what measures it will put in place to protect the geographical indications on products affected by the investment agreement that is going to be negotiated with China?

Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

The Commission will be guided by the negotiating directives given by the Council and will take into account the EP Resolution. The aim of the EU-China comprehensive investment agreement is to remove market access barriers and provide a high level of protection to investors and investments in EU and China markets. It should replace the 27 existing Bilateral Investment Treaties of individual EU Member States with China by one single comprehensive EU investment Agreement. This agreement aims at boosting two-way investment by opening market further and providing a simpler and more secure and predictable legal framework to investors for a long term investment relationship.

The EU-China comprehensive investment agreement, however, is not a free trade agreement and will not affect the bilateral trade regime for goods. It will, therefore, not cover geographical indications (GIs) for agricultural products or food. This being said, the EU is currently negotiating a stand-alone agreement on GIs with China which should offer a direct protection of GIs to be annexed to the agreement itself, thus offering a real added value in comparison to the current situation of following Chinese domestic procedures. The EU and China have been negotiating for over 3 years and the negotiations are now entering final stages.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012405/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Ποσοστά αυτοκτονιών

Γνωρίζει η Επιτροπή ότι, σύμφωνα με ανακοίνωση του Υπουργού Υγείας της Ελλάδας, τα ποσοστά αυτοκτονιών αυξήθηκαν κατά 40% στο πρώτο εξάμηνο του 2011;

1. Γνωρίζει η Επιτροπή τα ποσοστά αυτοκτονιών της Ελλάδας για το 2012 και το 2013;

2. Είναι σε θέση η Επιτροπή να παράσχει συγκριτικό πίνακα με στατιστικά στοιχεία περί αυτοκτονιών σε όλα τα κράτη μέλη πριν και κατά τη διάρκεια της οικονομικής κρίσης;

Απάντηση του κ. Borg εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(16 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

Η Eurostat συλλέγει τα στοιχεία για τη «θνησιμότητα λόγω συγκεκριμένης νόσου», συμπεριλαμβανομένων των ποσοστών αυτοκτονιών και τα τελευταία διαθέσιμα στοιχεία σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο αφορούν το 2010. Δεν υπάρχουν διαθέσιμα στοιχεία για την περίοδο από το 2011. Κατά συνέπεια, η Επιτροπή δεν γνωρίζει τα ποσοστά αυτοκτονιών στην Ελλάδα και σε άλλα κράτη μέλη μεταξύ 2011 και 2013.

Στο παράρτημα δίνεται πίνακας με στοιχεία σχετικά με τα ποσοστά αυτοκτονίας για τα τελευταία πέντε έτη (2006-2010) σε επίπεδο ΕΕ. Όσον αφορά την Ελλάδα, το ποσοστό αυτοκτονιών κυμαίνεται από 3,5 (ανά 100 000 κατοίκους) το 2006 σε 3,3 το 2010. Πρέπει να σημειωθεί ότι στις 28 Νοεμβρίου 2013 έγινε αναθεώρηση στη συλλογή των στοιχείων λόγω θανάτου. Όλες οι σειρές υπολογίστηκαν εκ νέου λαμβάνοντας με βάση τον νέο «Ευρωπαϊκό πίνακα» με 86 αιτίες θανάτου και το νέο ευρωπαϊκό πρότυπο πληθυσμού όπως καταγράφηκε από την Eurostat το 2012 ([1]).

([1]) http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/hlth_cdeath_esms.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012405/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Suicide rates

Is the Commission aware that in 2011 the Greek Health Minister announced that suicide rates had risen by 40% during the first half of that year?

1. Is the Commission aware of Greek suicide rates in 2012 and 2013?

2. Can it provide a comparative table of suicide data in all Member States before and during the economic crisis?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(16 December 2013)

Eurostat collects data on 'disease-specific mortality' including suicide rates and the latest European level data available refers to 2010. No data is yet available for the period as of 2011. Accordingly, the Commission is not aware of the suicide rates in Greece and other Member States between 2011 and 2013.

In annex, a table is provided with data on suicide rates for the last five years available (2006-2010) at EU level. As regards Greece, the suicide rate varied from 3.5 (per 100,000 inhabitants) in 2006 to 3.3 in 2010. It is to note that a revision took place in the data collection on causes of death on 28 November 2013. The whole series were recalculated taking into account the new 'European shortlist' of 86 causes of death and the new European standard population as defined by Eurostat in 2012 ([1]).

([1]) http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/hlth_cdeath_esms.htm

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012406/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 Οκτωβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Η οικονομική ανεξαρτησία των γυναικών

Οι περικοπές στις υπηρεσίες και τις παροχές έχουν θέσει σε κίνδυνο την οικονομική ανεξαρτησία των γυναικών, καθώς οι παροχές αποτελούν συχνά σημαντική πηγή του εισοδήματός τους και καθώς χρησιμοποιούν τις δημόσιες υπηρεσίες περισσότερο από τους άνδρες. Οι ανύπαντρες μητέρες και οι ανύπαντρες γυναίκες συνταξιούχοι υφίστανται τις μεγαλύτερες σωρευτικές απώλειες.

1. Προτίθεται η Επιτροπή να παρέμβει, δεδομένου ότι οι περικοπές στις υπηρεσίες και τις παροχές έχουν αρνητικές επιπτώσεις για τις γυναίκες;

2. Προτίθεται η Επιτροπή να λάβει κατάλληλα και αποτελεσματικά μέτρα προκειμένου να εμποδίσει τη συνέχιση αυτών των προβλημάτων;

3. Ποια ειδική καθοδήγηση παρέχει η Επιτροπή προς τα κράτη μέλη για την υποστήριξη συγκεκριμένα των ανύπαντρων μητέρων και των ανύπαντρων γυναικών συνταξιούχων;

Απάντηση της κ. Reding εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(8 Ιανουαρίου 2014)

Στην κοινή έκθεση για την απασχόληση και την έκθεση σχετικά με την πρόοδο ως προς την ισότητα μεταξύ γυναικών και ανδρών για το 2012 αναγνωρίζεται η δυσχερής κατάσταση που αντιμετωπίζουν οι ανύπαντρες μητέρες και οι ανύπαντρες γυναίκες συνταξιούχοι.

Στην ετήσια ανασκόπηση της ανάπτυξης 2014, στην οποία ορίζονται οι γενικές προτεραιότητες για το ευρωπαϊκό εξάμηνο 2014, τονίζεται ότι θα πρέπει να δοθεί προτεραιότητα στην «διευθέτηση του ζητήματος του αντικτύπου των διαφορών αμοιβών και δραστηριοτήτων μεταξύ ανδρών και γυναικών στα συνταξιοδοτικά δικαιώματα των γυναικών» και ότι «η πρόσβαση σε προσιτές υπηρεσίες μέριμνας θα βοηθήσει στη συμμετοχή των γυναικών στην αγορά εργασίας». Υπογραμμίζεται, επίσης, ότι πρέπει να χαραχθούν στρατηγικές ενεργού ένταξης, που θα περιλαμβάνουν αποτελεσματική και ενδεδειγμένη εισοδηματική στήριξη, μέτρα ενεργοποίησης, μέτρα για την αντιμετώπιση της φτώχειας, καθώς και ευρεία πρόσβαση σε οικονομικά προσιτές και υψηλής ποιότητας υπηρεσίες, όπως σε υπηρεσίες κοινωνικής ωφελείας και υγείας, στην παιδική φροντίδα, στη στέγαση και στην παροχή ενέργειας. Ήδη το 2013, με τις ειδικές ανά χώρα συστάσεις, τα κράτη μέλη καλούνται να αναπτύξουν υπηρεσίες μέριμνας, με σκοπό να αναβαθμίσουν την οικεία διαθεσιμότητα και ποιότητα και να τις καταστήσουν πιο προσιτές οικονομικά.

Επιπλέον, τα ζητήματα της ισότητας των φύλων και της άρσης των διακρίσεων λόγω φύλου πρέπει να λαμβάνονται υπόψη και να προωθούνται σε όλη την διάρκεια της προετοιμασίας και της άσκησης των δραστηριοτήτων στα πλαίσια των ευρωπαϊκών διαρθρωτικών και επενδυτικών ταμείων (ΕΔΕΤ). Ειδικές δράσεις για την βελτίωση και την προώθηση της οικονομικής ανεξαρτησίας των γυναικών και για την ανάπτυξη υπηρεσιών μέριμνας, μεταξύ άλλων, μπορούν να στηριχθούν γενικά από τα ταμεία ΕΔΕΤ και ειδικότερα από το ευρωπαϊκό κοινωνικό ταμείο (ΕΚΤ).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012406/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Women's economic independence

Cutbacks in services and benefits have compromised women's economic independence, as benefits often constitute an important source of their income and they use public services more than men. Single mothers and single female pensioners face the biggest cumulative losses.

1. Does the Commission intend to intervene, considering that cutbacks in services and benefits have a negative impact on women?

2. Does the Commission intend to take adequate and effective measures to stop all these problems occurring?

3. What specific advice does the Commission give to Member States to help single mothers and single female pensioners in particular?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(8 January 2014)

The Joint Employment Report and the report on progress on equality between women and men 2012 recognise the difficult situation of single mothers and single female pensioners.

The Annual Growth Survey 2014, which sets out the overall priorities for the European Semester 2014, highlights that priority should be given to 'addressing the impact of gender pay and activity gaps on women's pension entitlements' and that 'access to affordable care services will help the participation of women in the labour market'. It further stresses that active inclusion strategies should be developed, encompassing efficient and adequate income support, activation measures as well as measures to tackle poverty, and broad access to affordable and high-quality services, such as social and health services, childcare, housing and energy supply. In 2013, country specific recommendations already called on the Member States to develop care facilities to increase their availability, their quality and their affordability.

Moreover, gender equality and non-discrimination on the grounds of sex have to be taken into consideration and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) activities. Specific actions to improve and promote women's economic independence and to develop among other care facilities can be supported by the ESI Funds in general and by the European Social Fund (ESF) in particular.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012408/13
alla Commissione
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(31 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Disoccupazione in Italia: fallimento della strategia UE 2020 e allarme delocalizzazione

Alla fine del mese di ottobre 2013 l'ISTAT ha diffuso i dati che fotografano l'andamento dell'occupazione in Italia. Quello che emerge è un quadro preoccupante: il nostro paese conquista un nuovo record negativo e registra a settembre un tasso di disoccupazione pari al 12,5 %. Si tratta del valore più alto registrato dall'inizio del calcolo, sia delle serie storiche mensili dei dati, cominciato nel gennaio 2004, sia di quelle trimestrali cominciato nel 1977. Sempre nel mese di settembre il tasso di occupazione giovanile (15-24 anni) è sceso al 16,1 %, in calo di 0,5 punti percentuali su agosto e di 2,1 su base annua. Anche in questo caso si tratta di un valore che eguaglia il minimo storico e che tradotto in pratica significa che a settembre 2013 sono occupati meno di due giovani su dieci, anche se tra gli under 25 vanno contati anche gli studenti.

Trascorsi tre anni del lancio della Strategia Europa 2020, che nelle intenzioni del legislatore comunitario avrebbe messo la crescita economica e un elevato tasso di occupazione al centro delle sue azioni, il risultato è alquanto allarmante.

Può pertanto la Commissione precisare quanto segue:

— è a conoscenza di questi dati?

— ritiene ancora valida la Strategia Europa 2020 e le sue azioni?

— intende rivedere il ruolo attribuito per la sua attuazione alle politiche di *spending review* e alle drastiche manovre di *austerity*, la cui inefficacia è dimostrata dalla sempre più difficile situazione socio economica del nostro e di altri Stati membri?

— ha valutato, invece, la possibilità di affrontare in modo concreto e risolutivo i problemi legati alla delocalizzazione, soprattutto intra UE, che hanno causato in Italia la fuga di multinazionali e PMI, incapaci di sostenere una pressione fiscale del 68,5 % e attratte dalle condizioni fiscali più allettanti di altri Stati membri del mercato unico ?

— cosa intende fare per i giovani italiani che sono oggi le prime vittime di questa crisi e rispetto ai quali la strategia Europa 2020 si è dimostrata drammaticamente inefficace?

Risposta di László Andor a nome della Commissione
(3 gennaio 2014)

1. La Commissione segue da vicino la situazione dell'occupazione in Italia. Il progetto di Relazione comune sull'occupazione 2014 indica importanti aumenti della disoccupazione complessiva e giovanile in Italia nel corso dell'ultimo anno oltre ad evidenziare il secondo tasso più alto di giovani disoccupati e al di fuori di ogni ciclo d'istruzione e formazione nell'UE ([1]).

2. UE2020 è una strategia decennale per la crescita e la Commissione ritiene ancora validi i suoi obiettivi. Per raggiungerli la Commissione propone la propria consulenza strategica nel contesto del Semestre europeo tramite raccomandazioni specifiche per paese rivolte agli Stati membri, Italia compresa. La Commissione ha recentemente pubblicato la sua Analisi annuale della crescita per il 2014 ([2]).

3. Con una ridotta crescita potenziale e un debito pubblico estremamente elevato la stabilità finanziaria dell'Italia e tassi d'interesse bassi dipendono dal raggiungimento e dal mantenimento del surplus primario necessario per il servizio del debito e per reagire alle improvvise turbative dei mercati finanziari. Continuando su questa via l'Italia potrebbe veder ridurre i suoi tassi d'interesse con effetti positivi per l'economia reale e l'occupazione.

([1]) COM(2013) 801 def. del 13 novembre 2013 (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2014/jer2014_it.pdf).
([2]) COM(2013) 800 def. del 13 novembre 2013 (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2014/ags2014_it.pdf).

4. La libertà di stabilimento nell'UE è consacrata nei trattati quale elemento fondamentale del mercato unico e comunque la Commissione ha raccomandato all'Italia di alleggerire l'elevato onere fiscale che grava sul lavoro e sul capitale spostando la tassazione sui consumi e sui beni immobili in modo neutrale in termini di bilancio ([3]).

5. Per lottare contro la disoccupazione giovanile la Commissione sostiene gli Stati membri, Italia compresa, nell'attuazione di una Garanzia per i giovani, in linea con la raccomandazione del Consiglio. Inoltre, nell'ambito dell'iniziativa a favore dell'occupazione giovanile, l'Italia ha ricevuto un finanziamento straordinario per un importo di 530 milioni di euro da spendere nel periodo 2014-2015 a sostegno dell'occupazione giovanile, oltre allo stanziamento FES per il 2014-2020 ([4]).

([3]) http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/13/st10/st10640-re01.en13.pdf
([4]) COM(2013) 144 def. del 12 marzo 2013 (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0144:FIN:IT:PDF).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012408/13
to the Commission
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Unemployment in Italy: failure of the Europe 2020 strategy and concern over relocations

At the end of October 2013, ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics) published figures showing employment trends in Italy. They painted a worrying picture: unemployment in Italy is at an all-time high, with the unemployment rate standing at 12.5% in September. This is the highest since records began, both in terms of monthly figures, beginning in January 2004, and quarterly figures, beginning in 1977. September's youth employment rate (for 15 to 24-year-olds) fell to 16.1%, down 0.5 percentage points on August and 2.1 percentage points on an annual basis. Here too, this figure matches its lowest recorded level: in concrete terms, fewer than 2 young people in 10 were in employment in September 2013, although students are included among the under-25s.

The Community legislature intended the Europe 2020 strategy to place economic growth and a high employment rate at the heart of its actions. Three years on from its launch, however, the result is rather alarming.

Is the Commission aware of these figures?

Does it still consider the Europe 2020 strategy and its actions to be effective?

Will it review the role its implementation plays in spending-review policies and drastic austerity measures, whose inefficacy is demonstrated by the increasingly difficult social and economic situation in Italy and other Member States?

On the other hand, has it examined the possibility of resolving in practical terms issues relating to relocations, especially within the EU, which have prompted multinationals and SMEs to leave Italy since they were incapable of sustaining a 68.5% tax burden and were attracted by more appealing tax conditions in other Member States of the single market?

What does it plan to do for young Italians who are today the main victims of this crisis and for whom the Europe 2020 strategy has proved to be terribly ineffective?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

1. The Commission closely monitors the employment situation in Italy. The 2014 draft Joint Employment Report shows significant rises in the Italian overall and youth unemployment rates during last year, as well as the second-highest rate of young people not in employment, education or training in the EU ([1]).

2. EU2020 is a ten-year growth strategy and the Commission considers its target objectives still valid. To attain them, the Commission proposes its policy advice in the context of the European Semester through Country-Specific Recommendations to the Member States, including Italy. The Commission has recently published its Annual Growth Survey for 2014 ([2]).

3. With low potential growth and a very high public debt, Italy's financial stability and low interest rates hinge upon achieving and maintaining the primary surplus needed to cover for interest expenditure and respond to sudden shocks from financial markets. Pursuing this path could further reduce Italy's interest rates with positive effects on the real economy and employment.

4. While the freedom of establishment within the EU is enshrined in the Treaties as one fundamental element of the single market, the Commission has recommended Italy to alleviate the high tax burden on labour and capital by shifting taxation towards consumption and property, in a budgetary neutral manner ([3]).

([1]) COM(2013) 801final of 13 November 2013 (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2014/jer2014_en.pdf).
([2]) COM(2013), 800 final of 13 November 2013 (http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2014/ags2014_en.pdf).
([3]) http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/13/st10/st10640-re01.en13.pdf

5. To combat youth unemployment, the Commission is supporting Member States, including Italy, to implement a Youth Guarantee, in line with the Council Recommendation. Also, as approved under the Youth Employment Initiative, Italy has been allocated EUR 530 million of extra funds to be spent in 2014-2015 to support youth employment, in addition to its ESF allocation for 2014-2020 ([4]).

([4]) COM(2013) 144 final of 12 March 2013 (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0144:FIN:EN:PDF).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012409/13
alla Commissione
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(31 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Epatite E: aumento in Inghilterra dei contagi per via animale

Ogni anno, soprattutto in India, Asia, Africa, Medio Oriente e America centrale, 20 milioni di persone sono colpite dal virus dell'epatite E. Questo ceppo di epatite si diffonde attraverso il consumo di acqua contaminata ed è l'unico trasmissibile all'uomo dagli animali, per cui risultano particolarmente a rischio le categorie professionali che si dedicano all'allevamento.

Da un rapporto del dipartimento inglese per l'ambiente, l'alimentazione e gli affari rurali, i casi di epatite E nel Regno Unito sono aumentati del 39.5 % fra il 2011 e il 2012.

Può pertanto la Commissione precisare quanto segue:

— è essa a conoscenza dei fatti sopra descritti?

— ha essa notizie di un aumento dei casi di contagio per via animale dell'epatite E anche negli altri Stati membri?

— ritiene opportuno avviare uno studio per comparare i dati in tutta l'UE sulla diffusione di tale malattia ed emanare raccomandazioni comuni valide per tutti gli Stati membri per il controllo della stessa?

Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione
(12 dicembre 2013)

I dati sulla prevalenza e sull'incidenza dell'epatite virale E nell'UE/nel SEE non sono ancora disponibili in quanto l'epatite virale E non figura nell'elenco delle infezioni umane da riferire a livello di Unione a norma della decisione 1082/2013/CE ([1]) e nella raccolta annuale dei dati sulle zoonosi a norma della direttiva 2003/99/CE ([2]) sulle misure di sorveglianza delle zoonosi e degli agenti zoonotici. Inoltre, secondo quanto affermato nel 2011 dal gruppo di esperti scientifici sui pericoli biologici dell'Autorità europea per la sicurezza alimentare, non sono disponibili per l'UE/il SEE informazioni dettagliate su casi di epatite virale E.

Sebbene l'Europa non sia una regione endemica per l'epatite E, casi sporadici di epatite E si sono verificati in Francia, nei Paesi Bassi, in Spagna, in Ungheria, nel Regno Unito, in Danimarca e in Norvegia, il che indica un'ampia diffusione del virus nell'Unione. Per quanto riguarda l'aumento del numero di casi di origine animale, una serie di studi recenti ha attestato una maggiore prevalenza dell'infezione nei lavoratori del settore forestale e nelle persone con un'esposizione professionale ai suini rispetto alla popolazione in generale, sebbene finora non siano disponibili cifre precise sull'incidenza di tale infezione.

Secondo i pareri sull'ispezione delle carni, formulati dal gruppo di esperti scientifici sui pericoli biologici dell'Autorità europea per la sicurezza alimentare, l'epatite virale E non è stata identificata come un pericolo da gestire mediante la revisione dei sistemi di garanzia della sicurezza delle carni ([3]).

([1]) GU L 293 del 5.11.2013, pag. 1.
([2]) GU L 325 del 12.12.2003, pag. 31.
([3]) http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/topics/topic/meatinspection.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012409/13
to the Commission
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Hepatitis E: increase in contagion from animals in the UK

Every year, especially in India, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Central America, 20 million people are affected by the hepatitis E virus. This strain of hepatitis is spread through consumption of contaminated water and is the only strain that is transmissible from animals to humans. People who work in animal breeding or farming are therefore especially at risk.

According to a report by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the number of cases of hepatitis E in the UK rose by 39.5% between 2011 and 2012.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

— Is it aware of these facts?

— Is it aware of any increase in the number of cases of hepatitis E infection from animals in the other Member States?

— Does it not think it might be advisable to launch a study to compare data across the EU on the spread of the disease and to issue joint recommendations that apply to all Member States regarding its control?

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

Data on prevalence and incidence of viral hepatitis E in the EU/EEA is not readily available as viral hepatitis E is not included in the list of human infections to be reported at Union level under Decision 1082/2013/EC ([1]) and in the annual data collection on zoonoses under Directive 2003/99/EC ([2]) on monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents. In addition according to the European Food Safety Authority Panel on Biological Hazards in 2011, no detailed information on viral hepatitis E cases is available for the EU/EEA.

While Europe is not an endemic region for hepatitis E, sporadic human hepatitis E cases have occurred in France, The Netherlands, Spain, Hungary, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Norway, indicating a wide distribution of the virus in the Union. Concerning the increased number of cases from the animal source, a number of recent studies showed an increased prevalence of infection in forestry workers and people with occupational exposure to pigs as compared to the general population, although precise figures on incidence are not available so far.

According to the European Food Safety Authority Panel on Biological Hazards' opinions on meat inspection, viral hepatitis E was not identified as a hazard to be covered by revised meat safety assurance systems ([3]).

([1]) OJ L 293, 5.11.2013, p. 1.
([2]) OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p.31.
([3]) http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/meatinspection.htm

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012410/13
alla Commissione
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(31 ottobre 2013)

Oggetto: Cattiva alimentazione e rischi per la salute dei cittadini europei

In un'analisi pubblicata sull'*European Journal of Cancer Prevention*, i ricercatori scozzesi dell'università di Edimburgo hanno calcolato gli effetti di circa 170 diversi tipi di alimenti tra cui frutta, verdura, carne, pesce e molti *snack*, ad alto contenuto calorico, come ad esempio cioccolatini, patatine e bibite gassate.

Gli esiti dei loro studi hanno confermato la pericolosità dell'inattività fisica, ma hanno anche introdotto nuovi sospetti sugli spuntini ricchi di zuccheri e grassi, che soprattutto i più piccoli consumano in grandi quantità.

Utilizzando i dati raccolti dello *Scottish Colorectal Cancer Study*, gli scienziati hanno confermato l'influsso negativo della «dieta occidentale» basata sul consumo di carne, grassi e zuccheri, che esporrebbe a maggiori probabilità di sviluppare un carcinoma colon-rettale.

Può pertanto la Commissione precisare quanto segue:

1. Intende essa approfondire le indagini scientifiche ed investire in progetti che mirino ad accertare il presunto legame tra i «cibi sospetti» e il cancro?

2. Intende essa avviare una campagna per promuovere tra i cittadini europei la consapevolezza dell'importanza di un'alimentazione sana e corretta?

Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione
(17 dicembre 2013)

La strategia europea del 2007 sugli aspetti sanitari connessi all'alimentazione, al sovrappeso e all'obesità ([1]) promuove una dieta equilibrata e stili di vita attivi tra i cittadini dell'UE e viene attuata grazie al Gruppo ad alto livello sulla nutrizione e l'attività fisica ([2]) e alla Piattaforma d'azione europea per l'alimentazione, l'attività fisica e la salute ([3]).

Il Gruppo ad alto livello sulla nutrizione e l'attività fisica ha di recente iniziato a elaborare un piano d'azione per affrontare il problema dell'obesità infantile, che coprirà il periodo 2014-2020.

La Commissione ha inoltre avviato progetti pilota volti a promuovere diete sane per le donne in stato di gravidanza, i bambini e gli anziani, e ad aumentare il consumo di frutta e verdura fresche nelle comunità locali in cui il reddito delle famiglie è inferiore al 50 % della media UE.

Il codice europeo contro il cancro, messo a punto dalla Commissione e dall'Agenzia internazionale per la ricerca sul cancro, raccomanda di aumentare il consumo quotidiano e la varietà di frutta e verdura, di mangiarne almeno cinque porzioni al giorno e di limitare il consumo di cibi contenenti grassi di origine animale. Il codice è attualmente in fase di revisione e sarà pubblicato all'inizio del 2014.

([1]) COM(2007) 279.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/high_level_group/index_it.htm
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/platform/index_it.htm

La Commissione, nell'ambito del 7° programma quadro per la ricerca e lo sviluppo tecnologico (FP7; 2007-2013), ha investito 80 milioni di euro in progetti di ricerca per capire meglio la relazione tra dieta, stile di vita e salute nel corso della vita ([4]) e per sviluppare nuovi prodotti alimentari a basso contenuto di zuccheri, sale e grassi ([5]) (6 milioni di euro) o a sostegno di attività di ricerca sui legami tra dieta e cancro come pure sui meccanismi molecolari alla base degli effetti dell'alimentazione sulla salute.

Nel quadro del programma Orizzonte 2020 proseguiranno gli studi su alimenti e regimi alimentari come principali fattori per promuovere e conservare la salute e per ridurre il rischio di sviluppare malattie.

([4]) http://www.neurofast.eu (neurobiologia integrata connessa all'assunzione alimentare, alla dipendenza dal cibo e allo stress); http://www.full4health.eu (comprendere i meccanismi cibo-intestino-cervello nel controllo della fame e della sazietà nel corso della vita al fine di migliorare la salute);
http://www.eatwellproject.eu (interventi per promuovere abitudini alimentari sane: valutazioni e raccomandazioni);
http:/www.project-earlynutrition.eu (effetti a lungo termine dell'alimentazione nei primi anni di vita sulla salute futura);
http://www.toybox-study.eu (approccio multifattoriale basato su prove scientifiche e su modelli comportamentali per capire e promuovere attività divertenti e ludiche e un'alimentazione sana in ambito prescolare come pure interventi politici allo scopo di prevenire l'obesità nella prima infanzia); http://www.preview.ning.com (prevenzione del diabete grazie a uno studio di intervento sugli stili di vita e a studi sulla popolazione in Europa e nel mondo); http://www.theobelixproject.org (interferenti endocrini obesogenici: rapporto tra l'esposizione prenatale e lo sviluppo dell'obesità più tardi nella vita); http://www.i.familystudy.eu (determinanti dei comportamenti alimentari dei bambini e degli adolescenti europei e dei loro genitori).

([5]) http://www.pleasure-fp7.com (nuovi approcci alla produzione di nuovi alimenti a basso contenuto di grassi, zuccheri e sale).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012410/13
to the Commission
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(31 October 2013)

Subject: Bad diets and the associated health risks for people in Europe

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh have published in the *European Journal of Cancer Prevention* a study which examines the effects on health of some 170 different types of foods, including fruit, vegetables, meat and fish, and a number of high-calorie snacks, such as chocolate, crisps and fizzy drinks.

The results of the study confirm the health risks associated with lack of physical exercise, but also raise new concerns over sugary and fatty snacks, which children in particular tend to consume in large quantities.

The scientists used data from the Scottish Colorectal Cancer Study to confirm the damaging effects of the 'western' diet, which is high in meat, sugar and fat and brings with it an increased risk of bowel cancer.

1. Does the Commission intend to have further research carried out and invest in projects designed to determine whether there is in fact a link between unhealthy foods and cancer?

2. Does the Commission intend to launch a campaign to raise awareness in Europe of the importance of a healthy diet?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

The 2007 Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related Health Issues ([1]) promotes a balanced diet and active lifestyles among EU citizens and is implemented through the High Level Group for Nutrition and Physical Activity ([2]) and the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health ([3]).

Recently, the High Level Group for Nutrition and Physical Activity started to develop an action plan to address childhood obesity, which will cover the period 2014-2020.

The Commission has also launched pilot projects that aim to promote healthy diets among pregnant women, children and elderly, and to increase the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables in local communities where the household income is below 50% of the EU average.

The European Code against Cancer developed by the Commission and the International Agency for Research on Cancer, recommends increasing the daily intake and variety of vegetables and fruits, to eat at least five servings daily and to limit the intake of foods containing fats from animal sources. The Code is currently being revised and will be published in early 2014.

Under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7; 2007-2013), the Commission has invested EUR 80 million in research projects to better understand the relationship between diet, lifestyle and health across the lifespan ([4]) and to develop new food products with a low content of sugar, salt and fat ([5]) (EUR 6 million), or to support research on the links between diet and cancer development as well as on the molecular mechanisms underlying the effects of food on health.

Horizon 2020 will continue to explore food and diet as the main factors for promoting and sustaining health and for reducing the risk of diseases development.

([1]) COM(2007) 279.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/high_level_group/index_en.htm
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/platform/index_en.htm
([4]) http://www.neurofast.eu(The integrated Neurobiology of food intake, addiction and stress); http://www.full4health.eu (understanding food-gut-brain mechanisms across the lifespan in the regulation of hunger ad satiety for health); http://www.eatwellproject.eu (Interventions to promote healthy eating habits: evaluations and recommendations).
http:/www.project-earlynutrition.eu (long-terms effects of early Nutrition on later health); http://www.toybox-study.eu (Multifactorial evidence based approach using behavioural models in understanding and promoting fun, healthy food, play ad policy for the prevention of obesity in early childhood; http://www.preview.ning.com (prevention of diabetes through lifestyle intervention and population studies in Europe ad around the world; http://www.theobelixproject.org (Obesogenic endocrine disrupting chemicals: linking prenatal exposure to the development of obesity later in life; http://www.i.familystudy.eu (Determinants of eating behaviour in European children, adolescents and their parents).
([5]) http://www.pleasure-fp7.com (Novel processing approach to develop new products low in fat, sugar and salt).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta P-012412/13
alla Commissione
Salvatore Caronna (S&D)
(4 novembre 2013)

Oggetto: Presunta delocalizzazione dell'impresa Electrolux

Mentre l'Europa attraversa la più grave recessione degli ultimi decenni, l'industria dell'elettrodomestico è coinvolta in una massiccia trasformazione di mercato anche a seguito di un dimezzamento dei volumi di produzione.

La multinazionale svedese Electrolux ha lasciato intendere per l'immediato futuro alcune scelte strategiche che la condurranno ad una delocalizzazione nei territori della Polonia e dell'Ungheria.

Qualora tali scelte fossero confermate, le conseguenze occupazionali in molti comuni del nord-est Italia sarebbero drammatiche.

Alla luce di quanto precede, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

— In che misura intende sostenere il settore degli elettrodomestici soprattutto in quei Paesi, come l'Italia, che non sono competitivi sotto il profilo della pressione fiscale e dei trattamenti retributivi e previdenziali, ma che sono all'avanguardia in materia di innovazione e tutela e diritti dei lavoratori?

— Intende essa verificare se il trasferimento di produzione, nello specifico in Polonia e in Ungheria, avverrà sulla base di aiuti di Stato assegnati da qualche autorità pubblica?

— Intende essa approfondire la legittimità di tali eventuali aiuti di Stato ai sensi del diritto dell'UE, in particolare in relazione alle regole che disciplinano la concorrenza?

Risposta di Joaquín Almunia a nome della Commissione
(3 dicembre 2013)

1) La Commissione è a conoscenza del problema della delocalizzazione della produzione. Nell'ambito della politica industriale europea, la Commissione ha preparato misure politiche volte a migliorare il contesto imprenditoriale riducendo gli oneri amministrativi, agevolando l'accesso ai finanziamenti, migliorando e accelerando il funzionamento della pubblica amministrazione e aprendo i mercati, affinché l'Europa considerata nel suo insieme e i singoli Stati membri diventino una destinazione attraente per la produzione e gli investimenti. La Commissione ha condotto un'analisi approfondita dell'economia italiana e ha espresso il suo parere al riguardo ([1]).

2) A parte qualche eccezione ([2]), gli Stati membri possono concedere aiuti di Stato solo dopo aver notificato tutte le nuove misure di aiuto alla Commissione. La Commissione valuta le eventuali misure connesse alla delocalizzazione dell'impresa notificate dagli Stati membri interessati o le altre informazioni eventualmente ricevute in merito ad aiuti concessi senza la sua autorizzazione preliminare.

3) Se riceve una notifica o una denuncia, la Commissione procede anzitutto a una valutazione della misura per decidere se costituisca un aiuto di Stato ai sensi dell'articolo 107, paragrafo 1, del trattato sul funzionamento dell'Unione europea (TFUE). Se la misura costituisce effettivamente un aiuto di Stato, la Commissione valuta anche la compatibilità dell'aiuto con le norme in materia di aiuti di Stato.

([1]) Raccomandazione del Consiglio sul programma nazionale di riforma 2013 dell'Italia e che formula un parere del Consiglio sul programma di stabilità dell'Italia 2012-2017; esame approfondito per l'Italia, SWD(2013)118 def. I risultati e le politiche degli Stati membri in tema di competitività nel 2012, SWD(2012)298.

([2]) Un'eccezione importante è costituita dagli aiuti (ad esempio quelli a finalità regionale) concessi alle condizioni definite dal regolamento generale di esenzione per categoria (regolamento (CE) n. 800/2008 della Commissione, del 6 agosto 2008, che dichiara alcune categorie di aiuti compatibili con il mercato comune in applicazione degli articoli 87 e 88 del trattato, GU L 214 del 9.8.2008).

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012412/13
to the Commission
Salvatore Caronna (S&D)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Suspected relocation of Electrolux

While Europe is experiencing the most serious recession in recent decades, the domestic appliances industry is witnessing a massive transformation of the market, partly because the volume produced is being halved.

The Swedish multinational Electrolux has indicated that it intends to take a number of strategic decisions in the immediate future which will involve relocation to Poland and Hungary.

If these decisions were to be confirmed, the impact on employment in many places in north-eastern Italy would be serious.

To what extent will the Commission support the domestic appliances industry, particularly in those countries such as Italy which are not competitive because of the tax burden and differing approaches to wages and social insurance but which are in the vanguard as regards innovation and protection of workers' rights?

Will the Commission check whether the relocation of production, specifically to Poland and Hungary, is to be based on state aid allocated by some public authority?

Will the Commission check the legitimacy of any such state aid in the light of EC law, with particular reference to competition rules?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(3 December 2013)

1) The Commission is well aware of the issue of production relocation. Within the framework of European industrial policy, the Commission has prepared policy measures to improve the business environment by reducing the administrative burden, facilitating access to finance, improving and speeding up public administration, and opening up markets so that Europe as a whole and each of its Member States would be an attractive location for production and investment. The Commission has exhaustively analysed the Italian economy and provided its opinion in this regard ([1]).

2) With some exceptions ([2]), Member States may only grant state aid subject to prior notification of all new aid measures to the Commission. The Commission will assess the measures related to the relocation of the company, if any, if they are notified by the Member States concerned or if it receives other information concerning aid granted without prior Commission authorisation.

3) If it receives a notification or a complaint, the Commission will first assess any measure to decide whether it involves state aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). In case a measure is indeed state aid, the Commission will also assess whether the aid is compatible with the state aid rules.

([1]) Council Recommendation on Italy's 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Italy's stability programme for 2012-2017; In-depth review for Italy, SWD(2013) 118 final; Member States competitiveness performance and policies 2012, SWD(2012) 298.

([2]) An important exception is aid (for example regional aid) granted under the conditions established by the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation) OJ L 214, 9.8.2008.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-012413/13
aan de Commissie
Catherine Bearder (ALDE), Chris Davies (ALDE) en Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE)
(4 november 2013)

Betreft: Squaleen

Squaleen heeft een natuurlijke antioxiderende en bevochtigende werking; het is aan te treffen in sommige groenten maar meestal wordt het gewonnen uit diepzeehaaien die een hoog gehalte daarvan in hun lever hebben, waardoor zij de hoge waterdruk op grote zeediepte kunnen weerstaan. Squaleen wordt inmiddels veel gebruikt als ingrediënt voor cosmetische producten, van lippenbalsem en huidbevochtiger tot zonnecrème.

Dit heeft tot een toename van de haaienvangst geleid; elk jaar worden er duizenden haaien gedood, waaronder ook de diepzeesoorten die toch al bedreigd zijn. Omdat er ook plantaardige bronnen zijn voor squaleen is deze slachting niet nodig. Het probleem wordt nog vergroot doordat er geen sprake is van duidelijke etikettering waaruit de consument kan opmaken of hij squaleen koopt uit haaienlever of van plantaardige herkomst.

De situatie is des te urgenter wanneer men bedenkt dat de haaien van deze soort meer tijd nodig hebben om zich voort te planten en het dus tientallen jaren kan duren voordat zij hun oude aantallen weer hebben bereikt.

Is dit een situatie die de Commissie in het oog houdt wegens de bedreiging van deze soort? Bestaan er ook plannen voor zodanige wijziging van de etiketteringvoorschriften voor cosmetische producten dat de consument kan uitmaken of het squaleen dat deze bevatten, van dierlijke of plantaardige herkomst is?

Antwoord van de heer Mimica namens de Commissie
(23 december 2013)

De Commissie verwijst de geachte Parlementsleden naar haar antwoord op schriftelijke vraag E-011224/2013 ([1]).

De Commissie herinnert er tevens aan dat Verordening (EU) nr. 1262/2012 van de Raad tot vaststelling, voor 2013 en 2014, van de vangstmogelijkheden voor EU-vaartuigen voor bepaalde bestanden van diepzeevissen (PB L 356 van 22.12.2013) een totaal toegestane vangst (TAC) van nul vaststelt voor alle soorten diepzeehaaien in EU-wateren en internationale wateren van het noordoostelijke gedeelte van de Atlantische Oceaan.

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

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012413/13
to the Commission
Catherine Bearder (ALDE), Chris Davies (ALDE) and Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Squalene

Squalene is a natural antioxidant and moisturiser that can be produced from vegetables but is more commonly extracted from deep sea sharks who have high quantities of the substance in their livers so as to withstand the atmospheric pressure of living deep under the sea. Squalene has become a very common ingredient in cosmetics ranging from lip balm to moisturiser to sun screen.

This has led to increased shark hunting, causing thousands to be killed each year, including many deep water species that are already under threat. The fact that there are plant-derived sources of squalene makes this slaughter needless. The problem is exacerbated by the lack of clear labelling indicating to consumers whether they are buying products with shark- or plant-derived squalene.

The situation can be seen as even more urgent when one realises that these species of sharks take a long time to reproduce and it may therefore take decades before previous numbers are restored.

Is this a situation that the Commission is monitoring in relation to endangered species numbers? Are there any plans to modify the rules regarding the labelling of cosmetics so consumers know if the squalene they contain is sourced from animals or plants?

Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission
(23 December 2013)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Members to its answer to Question E-011224/2013 ([1]).

The Commission would also like to recall that Council Regulation (EU) No 1262/2012 fixing for 2013 and 2014 the fishing opportunities for EU vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks (OJ L 356 of 22.12.2013) establishes a zero total allowable catch (TAC) for all deep-sea sharks in EU waters and in international waters of the North-East Atlantic.

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

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012419/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(4 Νοεμβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Ύποπτες χρηματοδοτήσεις στη Γερμανία

Σύμφωνα με πληροφορίες του γερμανικού περιοδικού SPIEGEL και σχετικές αναφορές στην ιστοσελίδα του Γερμανικού Κοινοβουλίου, γερμανική αυτοκινητοβιομηχανία χορήγησε το ποσό των 690 000 ευρώ στο κυβερνών Χριστιανοδημοκρατικό Κόμμα της Γερμανίας, με σκοπό η Γερμανική Κυβέρνηση να μπλοκάρει απόφαση της ΕΕ με την οποία θα περιοριζόταν η εκπομπή καυσαερίων των αυτοκινήτων. Πρόκειται για σοβαρούς ισχυρισμούς που αγγίζουν καίρια θέματα δεοντολογίας, και μάλιστα σε μια χώρα με ηγετικό ρόλο στην Ένωση.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Είναι σε γνώση της οι πιο πάνω πληροφορίες και προτίθεται να ερευνήσει κατά πόσον αληθεύουν;

2. Σε περίπτωση που αληθεύουν, θεωρεί ότι εγείρονται θέματα ύποπτης διαπλοκής, διαφθοράς ή πολιτικής δεοντολογίας;

3. Τι προτίθεται να πράξει ώστε, ως θέμα αρχής, να παταχθούν τέτοια φαινόμενα στα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ;

Απάντηση του κ. Šefčovič εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(13 Δεκεμβρίου 2013)

Είναι τακτική της Επιτροπής να μη σχολιάζει δημοσιεύματα που εμφανίζονται στον Τύπο.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012419/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Suspicious funding in Germany

According to an article in the German magazine *Spiegel* and information on the German Parliament website, a German automotive manufacturer has donated the sum of EUR 690 000 to the ruling Christian Democrat party in Germany, in a bid to get the German Government to block an EU decision limiting vehicle exhaust emissions. These are serious allegations concerning crucial questions of ethics, especially in a country which plays a leading role in the Union.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Has the above information comes to its attention and does it intend to investigate whether or not it is true?

2. If it is true, does it consider that questions of suspicious connections, corruption and political ethics have arisen?

3. What does it intend to do, as a matter of principle, in order to stamp out such problems in the EU Member States?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(13 December 2013)

It is Commission policy not to comment on articles which appear in the press.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012424/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(4 Νοεμβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Η Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία έχει καταστεί αποικία της «προστάτιδος» μητέρας-πατρίδας Τουρκίας

Πρόσφατο άρθρο με τον τίτλο «Υπέρ του εποικισμού: Ζήτημα επιλογής», που δημοσιεύθηκε από την τουρκική εφημερίδα Hürriyet Daily News (επιγραμμικά, στις 28 Οκτωβρίου 2013) αναφέρει ότι το κατεχόμενο τμήμα της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας έχει καταστεί αποικία της «προστάτιδος» μητέρας-πατρίδας Τουρκίας.

Το άρθρο αναφέρει ότι «η "νέα Τουρκία" δεν κατανοεί» τι είναι ένας μακροχρόνιος εφιάλτης για τους περισσότερους Τουρκοκυπρίους, ενώ η «παλαιά Τουρκία» είχε πλήρη συνείδηση αυτών των ευαισθησιών αλλά ήταν απρόθυμη να τις αναγνωρίσει και να τις σεβασθεί, διότι «προτεραιότητα έχουν πάντα τα συμφέροντα της Τουρκίας». Ο δημοσιογράφος συνεχίζει λέγοντας ότι, ακόμη και πολλοί «παλαιοί Τουρκοκύπριοι», οι οποίοι μοιράζονται πολύ ισχυρούς δεσμούς ευγνωμοσύνης απέναντι στην «μητέρα-πατρίδα» τους, νιώθουν ότι η προστασία των συμφερόντων της Τουρκίας έχει πάντοτε προτεραιότητα έναντι της προστασίας των τουρκοκυπριακών συμφερόντων.

Πρώην Τούρκος υπουργός στη Βόρειο Κύπρο εκμυστηρεύτηκε ότι, κατά τη διάρκεια της θητείας του αισθανόταν σαν Βρετανός γενικός διοικητής σε νησιωτική αποικία. Πέραν των διαμαρτυριών που οργανώνονται συχνά από μια χούφτα Τουρκοκυπρίων έξω από την τουρκική πρεσβεία, οι Τουρκοκύπριοι κατέβηκαν δύο φορές στους δρόμους κατά τα τελευταία χρόνια, προκειμένου να καταδικάσουν τις αυταρχικές και όντως δικτατορικές συμπεριφορές της τουρκικής κυβέρνησης και την αλαζονική γλώσσα που χρησιμοποιεί ο Πρωθυπουργός Recep Tayyip Erdoğan κατά των Τουρκοκυπρίων.

1. Είναι σε γνώση της Επιτροπής αυτή η αλαζονική και δικτατορική στάση που επιδεικνύει η Τουρκία έναντι τόσο των Τουρκοκυπρίων όσο και των Ελληνοκυπρίων;

2. Ποια μέτρα προτίθεται να λάβει η Επιτροπή για να διασφαλίσει ότι τέτοιου είδους στάσεις δεν θα επικρατήσουν και δεν θα επηρεάσουν τις επερχόμενες ειρηνευτικές συνομιλίες μεταξύ Ελληνοκυπρίων και Τουρκοκυπρίων;

Απάντηση του κ. Füle εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(6 Ιανουαρίου 2014)

Η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει το Αξιότιμο Μέλος του Κοινοβουλίου στην απάντησή της στη γραπτή ερώτηση E-011122/2013 ([1]).

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

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012424/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: The Republic of Cyprus has become a colony of its 'protector' motherland Turkey

A recent article entitled 'Pro-settlement: A matter of choice' published by the Turkish Hürriyet Daily News (online, 28 October 2013) claims that the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus has become a colony of its 'protector' motherland Turkey.

The article states that 'the "new Turkey" would not understand' what is a long-lived nightmare for most Turkish Cypriots, whereas the 'old Turkey' was fully aware of such sensitivities but reluctant to recognise and respect them because 'the interests of Turkey should always come first.' The reporter goes on to say that even most of the 'old Turkish Cypriots', who shared very strong bonds of gratitude towards their 'Motherland', felt that defending Turkey's interests was always a priority over defending Turkish Cypriot interests.

A former Turkish ambassador to northern Cyprus confessed that throughout his tenure he had felt like a British governor general on an island colony. In addition to the protests staged frequently by a handful of Turkish Cypriots in front of the Turkish embassy, Turkish Cypriots took to the streets en masse twice in recent years to condemn the bossy and indeed dictatorial attitudes of the Turkish Government and the arrogant language used by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan against Turkish Cypriots.

1. Is the Commission aware of this arrogant and dictatorial attitude which Turkey displays towards both Turkish and Greek Cypriots?

2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that such attitudes will not prevail and affect the forthcoming peace talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(6 January 2014)

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to its answer to previous Written Question E-011122/2013 ([1]).

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

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012426/13
alla Commissione
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(4 novembre 2013)

Oggetto: Occultamento di ingenti quantità di rifiuti pericolosi e tossiconocivi in Italia e secretazione di importanti informazioni in materia ambientale da parte delle autorità italiane

Il 31 ottobre 2013 l'ufficio di presidenza della Camera dei Deputati italiana ha reso pubblico il verbale della «Commissione parlamentare d'inchiesta sul ciclo dei rifiuti e sulle attività illecite ad esso connesse» relativo ad una audizione del pentito di mafia Carmine Schiavone risalente al 7 ottobre del 1997.

Il verbale che mette in luce una circostanziata denuncia di occultamento illegale e sistematico di rifiuti (pericolosi, radioattivi, speciali, urbani, ospedalieri, ecc.) comprende documenti allegati utili ad individuare siti di interramento dei rifiuti avvenuti nelle regioni italiane di Campania, Lazio e Molise.

Da informazioni riportate dai mezzi di informazione si parla di 800 000 tonnellate di rifiuti occultati illegalmente anche se si potrebbe trattare di diversi milioni che risulterebbero essere arrivati dal nord Italia, Austria e Germania.

Secondo l'Istituto di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali IRES da fine anni Novanta ad oggi i clan della camorra hanno sversato, solo nel litorale domizio 341 000 tonnellate di rifiuti speciali pericolosi, 160 000 di rifiuti speciali non pericolosi e 350 000 di immondizia urbana.

Secondo l'ISDE (Associazione medici per l'ambiente) nelle aree colpite da questa attività illecita da tempo si registra un notevole aumento di casi di cancro, in determinate zone addirittura anche del 300 %, aumento dovuto a sostanze pericolose contenute nei rifiuti tossiconocivi e pericolosi smaltiti illegalmente.

Alla luce di quanto precede, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

— È al corrente dello smaltimento illegale dei suddetti rifiuti e quali azioni intende intraprendere affinché in Italia vengano rispettate le normative sulla tutela della salute e della falda acquifera e sui rifiuti e le bonifiche?

— Può essa riferire se la secretazione durata ben 16 anni da parte delle autorità italiane di tale verbale, contenente importantissime informazioni di carattere ambientale che prontamente utilizzate avrebbero potuto limitare i rischi alla salute e ridurre l'inquinamento del suolo e della falda acquifera, risulti conforme alle norme dell'UE in materia di rifiuti, trasparenza delle informazioni in tema ambientale, tutela delle acque e tutela della salute?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(7 gennaio 2014)

La Commissione è a conoscenza del problema relativo allo smaltimento illegale di rifiuti in Italia e ha intrapreso un'azione in proposito.

Nel quadro della procedura di infrazione 2007/2195 relativa alla gestione dei rifiuti in Campania, la Commissione ha sollevato la questione dello smaltimento illegale di rifiuti pericolosi, in particolare nelle province di Napoli e Caserta. Secondo le informazioni fornite alla Commissione, nel novembre 2012 il governo italiano ha nominato un commissario straordinario per il coordinamento delle azioni volte a prevenire lo smaltimento illegale di rifiuti e a porvi rimedio.

Inoltre, nel quadro della procedura di infrazione 2003/2077 relativa alle discariche abusive su tutto il territorio italiano, nell'aprile 2013 la Commissione ha adito per la seconda volta la Corte di giustizia a norma dell'articolo 260 del TFUE, proponendo ammende nei confronti dell'Italia.

La Commissione non è in grado di stabilire se la pubblicazione tardiva del verbale dell'audizione della commissione parlamentare abbia avuto qualche conseguenza sugli sforzi del governo italiano di individuare e bonificare i siti. Il ritardo nella pubblicazione non costituisce una violazione delle normativa dell'UE in materia di rifiuti o di accesso alle informazioni di carattere ambientale.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012426/13
to the Commission
Andrea Zanoni (ALDE)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Concealment of massive amounts of hazardous and harmful toxic waste in Italy and non-disclosure of important environmental information by the Italian authorities

On 31 October 2013, the Bureau of the Italian Chamber of Deputies published the minutes of a hearing of the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the Waste Cycle and Related Illegal Activities held on 7 October 1997 with mafia turncoat, Carmine Schiavone.

The minutes, which set out a detailed exposé of the illegal and systematic concealment of waste (hazardous, radioactive, special, urban, hospital, etc.), contain attached documents which help to pinpoint sites where waste was buried in the regions of Campania, Lazio and Molise in Italy.

According to media reports, 800 000 tonnes of waste have been illegally concealed, although the figure may actually be several million tonnes, allegedly from northern Italy, Austria and Germany.

Italy's Economic and Social Research Institute (IRES) claims that since the late 1990s, Camorra clans have dumped 341 000 tonnes of hazardous special waste, 160 000 tonnes of non-hazardous special waste and 350 000 tonnes of urban waste along the Domitian coast alone.

According to the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), cancer cases have been rising sharply for some time — by 300% in certain places — in the areas affected by this illegal activity. This increase is due to the dangerous substances in harmful toxic and hazardous waste which is dumped illegally.

Is the Commission aware of the illegal dumping of the above waste and what action will it take so that regulations on the protection of health and the water table and on waste and land reclamation are complied with in Italy?

These minutes contain extremely important environmental information which, if used immediately, could have limited health risks and reduced ground and water table pollution. Can it state whether the Italian authorities' failure to disclose them for the past 16 years complies with EU rules on waste, transparency of environmental information, the protection of water and of health?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(7 January 2014)

The Commission is aware of the problem of illegal disposal of waste in Italy and has taken legal action on this issue.

In the framework of infringement procedure 2007/2195, concerning waste management in Campania, the Commission has raised the issue of the illegal disposal of hazardous waste, in particular in the Naples and Caserta provinces. According to the information provided to the Commission, in November 2012, the Italian Government appointed a special commissioner, who has been coordinating the actions aimed at preventing and remedying the illegal disposal of waste.

Furthermore, in the framework of infringement procedure 2003/2077, concerning illegal landfills in the whole Italian territory, in April 2013 the Commission applied to the EU Court of Justice for the second time, under Art. 260 TFEU, proposing fines against Italy.

The Commission is not able to establish whether late publication of the minutes from the hearing of the Parliamentary Committee has affected the efforts of the Italian Government to identify and clean the sites. The delay in the publication does not consitute a breach of EU rules on waste or access to environmental information.

(Eestikeelne versioon)

Kirjalikult vastatav küsimus E-012427/13
komisjonile (asepresident / kõrge esindaja)
Tunne Kelam (PPE)
(4. november 2013)

Teema: VP/HR — inimõiguste olukord Kasahstanis

Kasahstani opositsiooniaktivist ja registreerimata opositsioonipartei Alga! juht Vladimir Kozlov kannab hetkel seitsme ja poole aastast vanglakaristust Petropavlovskis asuvas kinnipidamisasutuses. Vastavalt Kasahstani Vabariigi kriminaalmenetluse seadustiku artiklile 68 peaks süüdimõistetud isik kandma karistust oma vahistamiseelse viimase elukoha piirkonna kinnipidamiskohas. Sellest hoolimata paigutati Vladimir Kozlov oma viimasest elukohast Almatõst kaugel asuvasse kinnipidamisasutusse.

Kozlovi perekonna elukoha Almatõ ja Petropavlovski vahelise pika vahemaa ning keeruliste talviste ilmaolude tõttu on Kozlovi viiendat kuud lapseootel naisel Aliya Turusbekoval peagi võimatu oma abikaasat külastada. Seetõttu ei ole Kozlovil Petropavlovskis karistust kandes võimalik näha oma naist ega varsti sündivat last, kuigi tal on selleks õigus.

Peale selle väljendan muret Vladimir Kozlovi tervise pärast. Mind on teavitatud, et tal on mitmeid terviseprobleeme, sh tugev valu paremas puusaliigeses ning kõrge vererõhk, mis võib viia rabanduseni. Rahvusvahelised õigusorganisatsioonid mõistavad hukka asjaolu, et Vladimir Kozlovile ei võimaldata vajaminevat nõuetekohast arstiabi.

Võttes arvesse eespool nimetatud argumente, Vladimir Kozlovi perekonna erilist olukorda ning samuti Kasahstani Vabariigi presidendi Nursultan Nazarbayevi viimastel kuudel edendatud perekonda toetavat poliitikat, küsin kõrgelt esindajalt ja Euroopa välisteenistuselt, kas neil on olnud võimalust Kozloviga kinnipidamisasutuses kohtuda, et tema tervisliku seisundit hinnata.

Kas Euroopa Välisteenistus võtab meetmeid, et võimaldada Kozlovi üleviimine Petropavlovskist mõnda teise kinnipidamisasutusse, mis asuks lähemal tema viimatisele elukohale ja tema naise Aliya Turusbekova praegusele elukohale?

Komisjoni nimel vastanud Euroopa Liidu välisasjade ja julgeolekupoliitika kõrge esindaja ning komisjoni asepresident Ashton
(17. detsember 2013)

EL jälgib Vladimir Kozlovi juhtumit tähelepanelikult eelkõige oma Astana delegatsiooni abil, viibides kohtuasja arutamisel menetluse kõikides etappides. Pärast otsust härra Kozlovi kohtuasjas 2012. aasta oktoobris tegi liidu välisasjade ja julgeolekupoliitika kõrge esindaja ja komisjoni asepresident avalduse, milles väljendas muret karistuse ja kohtumenetluste mitme kitsaskoha üle. Delegatsioon jälgis edasikaebuse käiku Astana Ülemkohtus 2013. aasta augustis, mille järel väljendas liidu välisasjade ja julgeolekupoliitika kõrge esindaja ja komisjoni asepresidendi pressiesindaja pressikonverentsil sügavat pettumust tulemuse üle.

Delegatsioon suhtleb pidevalt härra Kozlovi abikaasa Alija Turusebkovaga ning kohtus temaga pärast edasikaebuse arutamist Ülemkohtus. Lisaks külastas kohalik inimõiguste järelevalvekomitee härra Kozlovi praeguses kinnipidamiskohas E-164/4 2013. aasta juunis. ELi delegatsioon kavatseb tõhustada oma jõupingutusi seoses vanglakülastuste ja kohtumõistmise jälgimisega ning on välja töötanud projektid, mis võimaldavad sellesse edaspidi kaasata inimõiguste kaitsjaid. Härra Kozlovi juhtumi jälgimisel on ELi delegatsioon teinud koostööd mitmete valitsusväliste organisatsioonidega, sealhulgas Kasahstani rahvusvahelise inimõiguste ja õigusriigi büroo, Aman-Saulõki ja teistega.

EL jätkab nii ametlike kui ka mitteametlike võimaluste kasutamist, et innustada Kasahstani täitma oma rahvusvahelisi kohustusi, eriti seoses kinnipeetavate õigustega, sealhulgas arstiabi tagamisega vanglates. Lisaks sellele kasutab EL peagi algavat ELi-Kasahstani inimõigustealast dialoogi, et juhtida ametiasutuste tähelepanu Kasahstani asjaomastele kohustustele.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012427/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Tunne Kelam (PPE)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Human Rights Situation in Kazakhstan

Vladimir Kozlov, the Kazakh opposition activist and leader of the unregistered opposition party Alga!, is currently serving a term of 7.5 years in a detention facility in Petropavlovsk. According to Article 68 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a convicted person should serve his/her sentence in a colony within the area of his/her last residence prior to his/her arrest. However, Vladimir Kozlov has been placed in a facility far away from his last place of residence, Almaty.

The long distance between Almaty, where Kozlov's family lives, and Petropavlovsk, as well as the difficult weather conditions in winter, will soon make it impossible for Mr Kozlov's wife, Aliya Turusbekova, who is in her fifth month of pregnancy, to visit her husband. Serving his term in Petropavlovsk, it will therefore be impossible for Mr Kozlov to meet his wife and soon-to-be-born child, as is his right.

Furthermore, I would like to express my concerns about Vladimir Kozlov's health. I have been informed that he suffers from numerous health problems, including a severe pain in his right hip joint and problems with high blood pressure which could lead to a stroke. International rights organisations condemn the fact that Vladimir Kozlov is not receiving the proper medical care that he needs.

Taking into account the aforementioned arguments and the specific circumstances of Vladimir Kozlov's family, as well as the pro-family policy promoted in recent months by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, I would like to ask the High Representative and the EEAS whether they have had a chance to meet with Mr Kozlov in the detention facility so as to ascertain his state of health.

Is the EEAS taking any action in order to facilitate the transfer of Mr Kozlov from the detention facility in Petropavlovsk to another detention facility closer to his last place of residence and the current place of residence of his wife, Aliya Turusbekova?

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

The EU, particularly through its Delegation in Astana, closely monitors the case of Mr Vladimir Kozlov, including through presence at the trials in all instances. Following the outcome of the trial of Mr Kozlov in October 2012, the spokesperson of HR/VP made a statement to express concern with the sentence and several shortcomings in the judicial process. The Delegation has monitored the appeal at the Supreme Court in Astana in August 2013, which was followed by the expression of deep disappointment with the result in the press briefing by the Spokesperson of the HR/VP.

The Delegation maintains constant contact with Mr Kozlov's spouse, Mrs Aliya Turusebkova and met with Mrs Turusbekova following the Supreme Court hearing on the appeal. In addition, the local Public Monitoring Committee visited Mr Kozlov in the current place of confinement E-164/4 in June 2013. The EU Delegation plans to intensify its efforts with regard to prison visits and trial monitoring and has developed projects allowing for further involvement of human rights defenders in this regard. In monitoring Mr Kozlov's case the EU Delegation has worked with several non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including the Kazakh International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Aman Saulyk and others

The EU continues to use both formal and informal opportunities to encourage Kazakhstan to respect its international commitments, notably with regard to rights of convicts, including ensuring medical assistance in prisons. Furthermore, the EU will use the forum provided by the approaching EU-Kazakhstan Human Rights Dialogue to bring to the attention of the authorities Kazakhstan's commitments in this regard.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012428/13
to the Commission
Nicole Sinclaire (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Number of European arrest warrants implemented

Could the Commission advise me of the total number of European arrest warrants (EAW) served in the UK to date, and a list of the Member States where these warrants originated?

Could the Commission also advise me of the number of EAWs served at the behest of the UK Government, and a list of those Member States where the warrants originated?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(20 December 2013)

The source of EU-level statistical data on the European arrest warrant (EAW) is the information provided yearly by Member States, including the UK, to the Council in response to the questions in the questionnaire on quantitative information on the practical operation of the European arrest warrant.

To date, this data has been provided by Member States for the years 2005 to 2012 and has been collated by the Council Secretariat in the following Council documents: 9005/5/06 COPEN 52; 11371/5/07 COPEN 106; 10330/2/08 COPEN 116; 9743/4/09 COPEN 87; 7551/7/10 COPEN 64; 9120/2/11 COPEN 83; 9200/7/12 COPEN 97; 7196/3/13 COPEN 34. The Honourable Member will see that the UK has furnished data for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 but none for 2008 and none to date for 2012. The data provided covers the numbers of EAWs issued and received by the Member States' judicial authorities as well as statistical data on a range of other issues. It does not however capture the origin of each warrant.

Following a Commission initiative, a revised questionnaire — addressing some of the shortcomings identified in the previous format — has been agreed by Member States and will be used for the data from 2014 onwards, which will be collected by the Commission. The revised questionnaire is set out in Council document 11356/12 COPEN 97.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012429/13
to the Commission
Nicole Sinclaire (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Supremacy of EC law

Could the Commission clarify in which areas EC law is supreme over national law?

Answer given by Mr Barroso on behalf of the Commission
(28 November 2013)

The Intergovernmental Conference which adopted the Treaty of Lisbon recalled in Declaration (No 17) concerning primacy, annexed to the Final Act of that Conference, that 'in accordance with settled case law of the Court of justice of the European Union, the Treaties and the law adopted by the Union on the basis of the Treaties have primacy over the law of the Member States, under the conditions laid down by the said case law'.

(Suomenkielinen versio)

Kirjallisesti vastattava kysymys P-012430/13
komissiolle (Varapuheenjohtajalle / Korkealle edustajalle)
Tarja Cronberg (Verts/ALE)
(4. marraskuuta 2013)

Aihe: VP/HR – EU:n edustuston avaaminen Iraniin

Neuvoston vuosittaisesta selvityksestä Euroopan parlamentille yhteisestä ulko- ja turvallisuuspolitiikasta 24. lokakuuta 2013 antamassaan päätöslauselmassa parlamentti kehotti tarkastelemaan uudelleen EU:n edustustojen infrastruktuurin jakoa ja henkilöstöä, jotta varmistetaan, että unionin tehokkuus, näkyvyys ja edustus kolmansissa maissa vastaa sen poliittisia tavoitteita ja odotettavissa olevia prioriteetteja. Lisäksi on merkittävää, että parlamentti muistutti EU:n edustuston avaamista Iraniin koskevasta vaatimuksestaan. Se on nyt antanut kyseisen suosituksen kahtena peräkkäisenä vuotena. Samaan aikaan Yhdistynyt kuningaskunta ja Iran ovat lehdistötietojen mukaan ottaneet merkittävän askeleen kohti Teheranissa ja Lontoossa sijaitsevien ulkomaanedustustojensa toiminnan jatkamista asiainhoitajien tasolla.

Onko jäsenvaltioita kuultu EU:n kokonaisvaltaisesta lähestymistavasta Iraniin (kuten parlamentin mietinnöissä ja päätöslauselmissa edellytetään)?

Onko nykyisestä tilanteesta keskusteltu Teheranissa sijaitsevien EU:n suurlähetystöjen kanssa?

Tekevätkö Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinnon eri osastot minkäänlaista rakenteellista yhteistyötä asioissa, jotka koskevat EU:n suhteita Iraniin?

Korkean edustajan, varapuheenjohtaja Catherine Ashtonin komission puolesta antama vastaus
(3. joulukuuta 2013)

1. Toistaiseksi jäsenvaltioita ei ole kuultu EU:n kokonaisvaltaisesta lähestymistavasta Iraniin. EU:n ja Iranin välisten suhteiden tämänhetkisessä vaiheessa keskustelu mahdollisesta edustuston avaamisesta vaikuttaa ennenaikaiselta.

2. Teheranissa sijaitseva EU:n paikallinen edustusto, josta Kreikka tällä hetkellä vastaa, järjestää säännöllisiä tapaamisia kaikkien EU:n Teheranissa sijaitsevien diplomaattisten edustustojen kanssa keskustellakseen maan poliittisesta ja taloudellisesta kehityksestä, ihmisoikeustilanne mukaan lukien.

3. Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinnossa järjestetään säännöllisesti tapaamisia Iraniin liittyviä asioita käsittelevien eri osastojen välillä, jotta voidaan varmistaa tarvittava toimintapolitiikkojen ja toimien yhteensovittaminen.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012430/13
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Tarja Cronberg (Verts/ALE)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: VP/HR — Opening of an EU delegation in Iran

In its resolution of 24 October 2013 on the Annual Report from the Council to the European Parliament on the common foreign and security policy, Parliament calls for a review of the infrastructure distribution and staffing of EU delegations in order to ensure that the Union's efficiency, visibility and representation in third countries reflects its political ambitions and expected priorities. Also, and most importantly, Parliament reiterates its demand for the opening of an EU delegation in Iran, a recommendation it has now made for two consecutive years. Meanwhile, according to press reports, Britain and Iran have taken a significant step toward resuming the work of their respective missions in Tehran and London at the level of chargés d'affaires.

What consultations with Member States, if any, have taken place regarding the EU's comprehensive approach to Iran (as stipulated in Parliament's reports and resolutions)?

Has the current situation been discussed with the EU embassies in Tehran?

Is there any form of structural cooperation between the various departments of the European External Action Service concerning issues pertaining to the EU's relations with Iran?

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

1. Consultations with Member states on an EU comprehensive approach to Iran have not taken place for the time being. At this stage of the relations between Iran and the EU, a discussion on the possible opening of a delegation seems premature.

2. The EU local representation in Tehran, which is currently ensured by Greece, holds regular meetings with all EU diplomatic missions in Tehran to discuss the political and economic developments in the country, including the Human rights situation.

3. Within the EEAS meetings are regularly taking place between the various departments dealing with Iranian issues so as to ensure the necessary coordination of the different policies and actions.

(Wersja polska)

Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej P-012431/13
do Komisji
Bogusław Liberadzki (S&D)
(4 listopada 2013 r.)

Przedmiot: System TIR

Pragnę zwrócić uwagę Komisji na tzw. system TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) oraz obecne problemy dotyczące transportu drogowego między krajami UE a ich wschodnimi sąsiadami.

W dniu 5 lipca 2013 r. rosyjski Federalny Urząd Celny zamieścił na swojej stronie internetowej informację o jednostronnej decyzji podjętej przez dyrektora tego urzędu Andreja Beljaninowa, zgodnie z którą:

„[…] w celu zagwarantowania terminowego wpływu wszelkich należności celnych do budżetu federalnego od dnia 14 sierpnia 2013 r. obejmowanie towarów procedurą TIR ma miejsce pod warunkiem, że tranzyt celny jest zabezpieczony na mocy środków wskazanych w art. 217 §1 kodeksu celnego unii celnej".

W praktyce skuteczne wdrożenie takiego jednostronnego środka oznaczałoby, że od dnia 14 sierpnia każdy karnet TIR wykorzystywany do transportu towarów na Białoruś, do Federacji Rosyjskiej i Kazachstanu, a także przez te kraje i z tych krajów wymagałby dodatkowej krajowej gwarancji celnej. Koszty takiej gwarancji są znacznie wyższe niż cena gwarancji TIR. Przedsiębiorstwa transportowe zmuszone do nabycia tej dodatkowej gwarancji mogą podjąć decyzję o wstrzymaniu transportu TIR na granicy białoruskiej. Może to doprowadzić do zablokowania granicy UE oraz spowodować spore opóźnienia i dodatkowe koszty dla wszystkich międzynarodowych przedsiębiorstw transportu drogowego.

Ta jednostronna decyzja podjęta przez rosyjski Federalny Urząd Celny jest niezgodna z art. 4 konwencji TIR i stanowi poważne naruszenie art. 42a i art. 48. Co więcej, nowy środek kontroli jest niezgodny z art. 217.2.3 kodeksu celnego Euroazjatyckiej Wspólnoty Gospodarczej (EaWG), który jednoznacznie stanowi, że operacje tranzytowe w ramach porozumień międzynarodowych nie wymagają gwarancji.

Z uwagi na znaczenie systemu TIR dla gospodarki UE i ogromny wpływ, jaki ten nowy środek kontroli z pewnością wywrze na międzynarodowy transport drogowy, pragnę zwrócić się do Komisji o pilne złożenie protestu na ręce właściwych organów Federacji Rosyjskiej, aby doprowadzić do zniesienia owych nowych wymogów w zakresie kontroli. Wszelkie problemy należy w pierwszej kolejności omawiać na szczeblu międzynarodowym, a przed podjęciem decyzji konieczne są konsultacje ze wszystkimi zainteresowanymi stronami.

Odpowiedź udzielona przez komisarza Algirdasa Šemetę w imieniu Komisji
(2 grudnia 2013 r.)

Komisja podjęła natychmiastowe działania, kiedy otrzymała informacje o decyzji Rosji, by stopniowo zawiesić konwencję TIR i wprowadzić dodatkowe lub alternatywne gwarancje. Członek Komisji odpowiedzialny za podatki i unię celną pozostaje w kontakcie z szefem rosyjskiej FSC ([1]): osobiście i w drodze wymiany listów. Służby Komisji zorganizowały telekonferencję z rosyjskimi organami celnymi oraz misję wyjaśniającą do Moskwy. Ponadto Komisja aktywnie zajmuje się tą kwestią na forach wielostronnych, m.in. skierowano pismo do Sekretarza Wykonawczego EKG ONZ ([2]), powołano specjalną sesję Rady Wykonawczej TIR, jak również przeprowadzono konsultację z Międzynarodowym Związkiem Transportu Drogowego i z państwami trzecimi graniczącymi z Rosją. Działania te były koordynowane z państwami członkowskimi.

W następstwie tych działań FSC zdecydowała się ograniczyć wdrażanie przedmiotowych środków od dnia 14 września 2013 r. do okręgów celnych Syberii i Dalekiego Wschodu oraz wprowadzić je stopniowo w pozostałych regionach do dnia 1 grudnia 2013 r. Komisja uważa przedmiotowe środki za naruszenie zapisów konwencji TIR; należy jednak odnotować, że jeśli na dzień 1 grudnia 2013 r. nie istniałyby żadne krajowe stowarzyszenia poręczające, ocena musiałaby być inna.

([1]) Federalna Służba Celna.
([2]) Europejska Komisja Gospodarcza Organizacji Narodów Zjednoczonych (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).

W dniu 15 listopada 2013 r. przewodniczący Komisji wystosował pismo do prezydenta Putina, aby wyrazić głębokie zaniepokojenie wdrożeniem zapowiedzianych środków. Komisja będzie w dalszym ciągu podnosić tę kwestię na odpowiednich wielostronnych (tj. przed organami TIR) oraz dwustronnych forach, aby zagwarantować, że zapowiedziane przez Rosję środki będą miały możliwie ograniczony wpływ na podmioty gospodarcze w UE. Problem ten zostanie również omówiony podczas najbliższych spotkań ze stroną rosyjską oraz przy innych odpowiednich okazjach.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012431/13
to the Commission
Bogusław Liberadzki (S&D)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: TIR system

I would like to draw the Commission's attention to the 'TIR system' (Transports Internationaux Routiers) and the current problems regarding transport by road between EU countries and their eastern neighbours.

On 5 July 2013 the Russian Federal Customs Service posted information on its website about a unilateral decision made by its head, Andrey Belyaninov, stating that:

'(…) in order to ensure full and timely payment of customs duties to the Federal budget, starting from 14 August 2013, placement of goods under the TIR procedure shall be performed under the condition that customs transit is secured by measures indicated in Article 217 §1 of the Customs Code of the Customs Union.'

In practice the effective implementation of such a unilateral measure would mean that from 14 August each TIR Carnet used to transport goods to/through/from Belarus, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan would be subject to an additional national customs guarantee. The cost of such a guarantee is significantly higher than the cost of a TIR guarantee. Transport operators forced to buy this additional guarantee may decide to stop TIR transports at the Belarusian border. This may block the EU border and create long delays and additional costs for all international road transport operators.

This unilateral decision made by the Russian Federal Customs Service does not comply with Article 4 of the TIR Convention and is a serious violation of Article 42 bis and 48. What is more, the new control measure does not comply with Article 217.2.3 of the EurAsEC customs code which clearly stipulates that no guarantee is required for transit operations under international agreements.

Considering the importance of the TIR system for the EU economy and the great influence this new control measure will certainly have on international road transport, I should like to ask the Commission to make urgent representations to the relevant authorities in the Russian Federation in order to cancel these new control requirements. Any problems should first be discussed at international level and all stakeholders should be consulted before any decisions are made.

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(2 December 2013)

The Commission acted promptly when it was informed of Russia's decision to progressively suspend the TIR Convention and introduce additional/alternative guarantees. The Member of the Commission responsible for Taxation and Customs Union has been in contact in person and by exchange of letters with the Head of Russia's FCS ([1]). Commission services organised a teleconference with Russian Customs and a fact-finding mission to Moscow. In addition, the Commission was active in the handling of the issue at multilateral level, which included a letter to the Executive Secretary of the UNECE ([2]), a special session of the TIR Executive Board, as well as consultations with the International Road Transport Union and with non-EU members bordering Russia. These activities were coordinated with Member States.

Subsequently, the FCS decided to limit the implementation of the measures as of 14 September 2013 to the Siberian and Far East customs districts and to introduce them gradually in all other regions by 1 December 2013. The Commission regards these measures as a violation of the TIR Convention; it has to be noted, however, that as of 1 December no national guaranteeing association might exist and that in this case the assessment would have to be different.

([1]) Federal Customs Service.
([2]) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

On 15 November 2013 the President of the Commission sent a letter to President Putin to express serious concerns about the implementation of the announced measures. The Commission will continue to raise this issue in the appropriate multilateral (i.e. the TIR bodies) and bilateral fora with a view to ensuring that the impact of these measures for EU operators remains as limited as possible. The issue will also be discussed during upcoming meetings with the Russian side and on other appropriate occasions.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012434/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Reform of European Arrest Warrant

In light of claims made by several Member States that it wrongly allows the extradition of EU citizens on trivial and uncertain charges, can the Commission please provide details of whether it has any plans to reform the European Arrest Warrant in the future?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(9 January 2014)

The Commission works on a continued basis to improve the European arrest warrant (EAW) system.

In its 2011 Report on the implementation of the EAW Framework Decision ([1]) the Commission stressed the efficiency of the EAW system in comparison to the previous extradition arrangements. While taking note of the EAW's success in providing an efficient way to extradite suspects in a border-free EU, the Commission also acknowledged that its operation needed to improve.

Since then the limitations of the system have been improved by the adoption of Directives on the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons. This was the case of the directives on the interpretation and translation ([2]), on the right to information on rights ([3]) and on the right of access to a lawyer ([4]), all of which have specific provisions on the EAW. The most far-reaching is the directive on the right of access to a lawyer, which reinforces the existing right to a lawyer in the executing state and makes express provision for the right of access to a lawyer in the issuing state. In November 2013 the Commission presented a package of further proposals on proposal rights ([5]) aimed also at strengthening the mutual trust amongst the judiciaries of the Member States to enable mutual recognition instruments such as the EAW to operate smoothly.

The Commission is also working via experts meetings and outreach with Member States on the timely and complete transposition of the framework Decisions that complement and provide alternatives to the EAW, namely, transfer of prisoners ([6]), European supervision order ([7]), probation and alternative sanctions ([8]), in absentia Judgments ([9]) and financial penalties ([10]).

([1]) COM(2011) 175 and SEC(2011) 430 COM.
([2]) Directive 2010/64/EU.
([3]) Directive 2012/13/EU.
([4]) Directive 2013/48/EU.
([5]) COM(2013) 820.
([6]) Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA.
([7]) Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA.
([8]) Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA.
([9]) Framework Decision 2009/299/JHA.
([10]) Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012435/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Developments in Gibraltar

The UK Ministry of Defence has confirmed that it will make representations to the Spanish Government after a Guardia Civil Patrol boat manoeuvred provocatively in Gibraltarian territorial waters as a Royal Navy vessel was being escorted through the area by the Gibraltar Squadron. The incident resulted in an armed stand-off.

In this context, can the Commission please outline what steps it will take to ensure that the sovereignty of Gibraltar, its territorial waters, and its people is upheld amidst escalating Spanish provocation in the region?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(6 January 2014)

The Commission has no competence as regards the facts mentioned in the question.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012437/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Cases of lung cancer

In my constituency, Northern Ireland, the Public Health Agency recently confirmed that approximately 900 cases of lung cancer were diagnosed in our region of the United Kingdom every year. Smoking was confirmed as the single biggest factor in 90% of cases.

1. How many EU citizens have died as a result of lung cancer in the past five years? Can the Commission please provide a breakdown of these figures by (a) Member State and (b) age?

2. What steps are being taken at EU level to combat the underlying causes of lung cancer, and most notably, smoking?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(8 January 2014)

In the past five years, over 1.3 million EU citizens died from lung cancer (Malignant neoplasm of larynx, trachea, bronchus and lung). In the annex, the breakdown of death rates is provided by age group and by Member State.

The Commission has developed a series of initiatives to address tobacco smoking. First of all the EU has legislation on the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco products as well as legislation regulating advertising of these products. In this regard, the Commission adopted a proposal to revise and strengthen the Tobacco Products Directive in December 2012 and the co-legislators are finalising an agreement on this proposal which foresees large mandatory photo and text warnings on both sides of the pack of cigarettes and roll-your-own tobacco, and no characterising flavours allowed in these products.

Second, the 2009 Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments calls on Member States to fully protect their citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke by 2012, with a particular emphasis on the dangers of second-hand tobacco smoke for children. In February 2013 the Commission published a report on the implementation of the recommendation.

Third, since 2002, the Commission sponsored wide-ranging information and prevention campaigns related to smoking.

Finally, the European Code against Cancer provides guidelines for citizens on how to prevent certain cancers and increase the chances of cure by adopting a healthier lifestyle and taking part in screening. The first recommendation of the Code addresses the issue of smoking and lung cancer, advising citizens not to smoke. The Code is currently being updated.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012438/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Strokes affecting young people

A global study incorporating 50 countries recently published in *The Lancet* medical journal has found that, due to rising obesity and diabetes rates, the number of strokes affecting people aged between 20 and 64 has risen by a quarter in 20 years.

The findings also concluded that people in the UK remain more likely to die as a result of a stroke than those in France, Germany or the United States.

1. In the past five years, how many EU citizens aged between 20 and 64 have died directly or indirectly as a result of suffering a stroke? Can the Commission please provide a breakdown of these figures by Member State?

2. What steps are being taken at EU level to combat the underlying causes of strokes among young people, including rising obesity and a lack of exercise?

3. What action will be taken at EU level within the new programming period (2014-2020) to tackle the prevalence of heart disease, including strokes, across the EU?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(3 January 2014)

The Commission collects yearly data on causes of death ([1]). In the period 2006-2010, nearly 216 000 EU citizens between 20 and 64 years died of stroke. In annex, this data is presented by Member State for the same period.

The 2007 Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related Health Issues ([2]) promotes a balanced diet and active lifestyles among EU citizens and encourages key stakeholders, through the High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity and the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, to develop action to address obesity and the lack of exercise, regarded as underlying causes of stroke.

The EU Health Programme co-funded the project SITS (Safe Implementation of Treatment of Strokes ([3])which has contributed to better access to evidence-based prevention and acute stroke treatment at more clinics in Europe.

One of the objectives of the forthcoming Health Programme 2014-2020 is the promotion of health, the prevention of disease and the support to environments for healthy lifestyles, which enables the EU to continue pursue action in this area.

([1]) http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/health/public_health/data_public_health/database
([2]) COM(2007) 279.
([3]) www.sitsinternational.org

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012439/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Flash floods in India

Earlier this month, flash floods swept through the eastern Indian states of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, resulting in the deaths of at least 40 people.

Can the Commission please provide details of what emergency assistance it has provided to the Indian Government in light of this crisis, and identify what action it may take to support a rebuilding process in communities disproportionately affected?

Answer given by Ms Georgieva on behalf of the Commission
(17 December 2013)

The floods referred to in the Honourable Member's question were a direct consequence of the cyclone Phailin weather system. On 29 October 2013, the Commission approved an allocation of EUR 3 million for immediate and early recovery assistance for the most vulnerable victims of cyclone 'Phailin' and subsequent floods.

To help the most affected and vulnerable people's survival until the next crop and improve their resilience to future disasters, food assistance and livelihood recovery support are covered by this assistance. Fishing communities have lost assets that are indispensable for their trade and these funds also assist to replace these. The most vulnerable households are also being provided assistance to rebuild their shelter; to improve their resilience to future disasters, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) features are being incorporated in all works. Basic health, including water/sanitation and nutrition, are also covered. Protection issues are being taken into consideration in all operations and particular care is being taken to target low caste communities as beneficiaries of this assistance.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012441/13
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: Motor Neurone Disease

In the past week, it has emerged that former Dutch international footballer Fernando Ricksen has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), a terminal disease which causes parts of the nervous system to become damaged, ultimately causing muscle wasting and the inability to speak, walk or breathe.

In the United Kingdom, MND affects approximately 5 000 people every year.

1. How many EU citizens have died as a result of MND in the past five years? Could the Commission please provide a breakdown of these figures by (a) Member State and (b) age?

2. What steps are being taken at EU level to aid research into the causes of MND and possible treatments, and to fund projects that support those diagnosed with the disease?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(8 January 2014)

The Commission collects yearly data on causes of death. In annex, the number of deaths due to Motor Neuron Disease in the EU is presented for 2006-2010 by Member State and age group (most recent available data).

While the Commission has no specific policy on Motor Neuron Disease, patients could benefit from actions developed under the EU general rare diseases policy. The EU has supported projects on rare diseases under the EU Health Programmes since 2003. This includes support to the ORPHANET database which provides information to health professionals and patients on rare diseases including Motor Neuron Disease.

The Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013) has since 2007 invested over EUR 58 million in research on Motor Neuron Disease. This includes the collaborative project EUROMOTOR ([1]) aimed at detecting key genetic drivers of disease susceptibility and progression for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

The Commission also supports the implementation of the Joint Programming Initiative on Neurodegenerative Diseases Research, a Member State-led initiative that aims at increasing the impact of European research in this area by coordinating efforts across countries.

Finally, Horizon 2020, the new EU programme for research and innovation 2014-2020, may provide further opportunities for research on this disease mainly through the pillar societal challenge 1 'Health, demographic change and well-being', as well as through the European Research Council which will continue supporting frontier research in all fields.

([1]) http://www.euromotorproject.eu/

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-012448/13
προς την Επιτροπή
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(4 Νοεμβρίου 2013)

Θέμα: Γενικό Σχέδιο Υγείας

Ο τομέας της υγείας αποτελεί έναν από τους σημαντικότερους και πιο νευραλγικούς τομείς για τη σωστή λειτουργία ενός κράτους. Ωστόσο οι σοβαρές περικοπές που γίνονται στον προϋπολογισμό για την υγεία συνεπάγεται αλυσιδωτές αρνητικές επιπτώσεις στην ποιότητα της ζωής των πολιτών.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Διαθέτει συγκριτικά στοιχεία στη βάση δεικτών για τα επίπεδα της παρεχόμενης ιατροφαρμακευτικής περίθαλψης στις χώρες μέλη της ΕΕ και της Ευρωζώνης;

2. Σε ποιες από αυτές τις χώρες εφαρμόζεται ένα Γενικό Σχέδιο Υγείας (ΓΕΣΥ);

3. Γνωρίζει τις επιπτώσεις της οικονομικής κρίσης στα συστήματα υγείας των χωρών-μελών (Ελλάδα, Κύπρος, Ισπανία, Πορτογαλία) που πιέζονται από μνημονιακές πολιτικές αυστηρής λιτότητας;

4. Ποία μέτρα λαμβάνει για να επιδείξει την κοινοτική της αλληλεγγύη έμπρακτα, απαμβλύνοντας προβλήματα που προκύπτουν στις χώρες αυτές;

Απάντηση του κ. Borg εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(8 Ιανουαρίου 2014)

Το Ευρωπαϊκό Σύστημα Αμοιβαίας Πληροφόρησης για την Κοινωνική Προστασία (MISSOC [1]) παρέχει λεπτομερείς, συγκρίσιμες και σε τακτική βάση επικαιροποιούμενες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τα εθνικά συστήματα κοινωνικής προστασίας, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της κάλυψης των παροχών υγειονομικής περίθαλψης σε όλα τα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ.

Δεν υπάρχει τυποποιημένος ορισμός του τι συνιστά «γενικό σχέδιο υγείας» στα κράτη μέλη της ΕΕ. Ωστόσο, το νομοθετικό πλαίσιο για τα νέα ευρωπαϊκά διαρθρωτικά και επενδυτικά ταμεία για την περίοδο 2014-2020 [2] απαιτεί να ισχύει ένας «εκ των προτέρων όρος» για την υγεία εάν ένα κράτος μέλος προβλέπει να συγχρηματοδοτούνται από τα εν λόγω ταμεία εθνικές ή περιφερειακές δράσεις στον τομέα της υγείας. Συγκεκριμένα, το κράτος μέλος πρέπει να έχει σε ισχύ ένα στρατηγικό πλαίσιο πολιτικής για την υγεία.

Η Επιτροπή γνωρίζει τις σημαντικές πιέσεις που ασκούνται στα συστήματα υγείας στην Ελλάδα, την Κύπρο, την Ισπανία και την Πορτογαλία. Η Επιτροπή υποστηρίζει τα κράτη μέλη στις προσπάθειές τους να εξασφαλίσουν κέρδη επάρκειας στα συστήματα υγείας τους διατηρώντας παράλληλα την καθολική πρόσβαση και βελτιώνοντας την ποιότητα της παροχής περίθαλψης. Η Επιτροπή παρακολουθεί την πρόσβαση και τα αποτελέσματα στον τομέα της υγείας χρησιμοποιώντας, μεταξύ άλλων, τα διαθέσιμα στοιχεία της Eurostat και των ευρωπαϊκών βασικών δεικτών υγείας (ECHI) [3]. Κατά περίπτωση, η Επιτροπή θέτει τα συναφή ζητήματα στις αρχές των κρατών μελών στο πλαίσιο του εν εξελίξει μόνιμου διαλόγου, ενδεχομένως επίσης και στο πλαίσιο του Ευρωπαϊκού Εξαμήνου, όπως στην περίπτωση της Ισπανίας [4].

Τα οικεία μέτρα που εφαρμόζονται στην πράξη όπως υποστηρίχθηκαν από την Επιτροπή διαφοροποιούνται από κράτος μέλος σε κράτος μέλος και μπορεί να ενσωματώνουν τις δεσμεύσεις των κρατών μελών που λαμβάνονται ως μέρος ενός σχετικού μνημονίου συμφωνίας. Η Επιτροπή παραθέτει σαν παράδειγμα την επικείμενη δέσμευση που έχει αναλάβει η Ελλάδα να εκπονήσει ένα σχέδιο δράσης για την παροχή πρόσβασης στην ασφάλιση υγείας σε ανασφάλιστους πολίτες [5].

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(1) Βλ. http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=815&langId=el
(2) Βλ. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_el.cfm
(3) Βλ. http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/echi/list/index_en.htm
(4) Βλ. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nd/csr2013_spain_en.pdf
(5) Βλ. http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/occasional_paper/2013/pdf/ocp159_en.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012448/13
to the Commission
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: General Health Plan

The health sector is a key sector, which is one of the most important in a State's proper functioning. However, the radical cuts to health budgets are producing a chain of negative consequences which are having an impact on the quality of life for individuals.

Will the Commission say:

1. whether it has comparative data in the database of indicators on the levels of healthcare provided in the EU Member States and the euro area?

2. In which of these countries is a General Health Plan being implemented?

3. Is it aware of the impact of the financial crisis on the health systems of the Member States (Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Portugal) which are being pressured by Memorandum policies involving rigorous austerity?

4. What measures is the Commission taking to demonstrate its social solidarity in practice, by alleviating problems that are arising in these countries?

Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission
(8 January 2014)

The EU's Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC ([1])) provides detailed, comparable and regularly updated information about national social protection systems, including on the coverage of healthcare benefits in all EU Member States.

There is no standard definition of what constitutes a 'General Health Plan' across EU Member States. Nevertheless, the legislative framework for the new European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 ([2]) requires, that, if a Member State foresees national or regional actions in health to be co-financed by these funds, an '*ex-ante* conditionality' on health is applied. Concretely, the Member State has to have a strategic policy framework for health in place.

The Commission is aware of the considerable strain health systems in Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Portugal are under. The Commission supports these Member States in their efforts to secure efficiency gains in their health systems, whilst maintaining universal access and improving the quality of care delivery. The Commission monitors access and health outcomes using, among other, available Eurostat data and the European Core Health indicators (ECHI) ([3]). Wherever relevant, the Commission raises related issues with Member State authorities as part of an ongoing standing dialogue, possibly also, as is the case for Spain ([4]), in the frame of the European Semester.

Actual relevant measures put in place, as supported by the Commission, depend from Member State to Member State and may encompass Member State commitments taken as part of a related Memorandum of Understanding. The Commission would give as an example the forthcoming commitment by Greece to prepare an action plan to provide health insurance access to uninsured citizens ([5]).

([1]) See http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=815&langId=en
([2]) See http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm
([3]) See http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/echi/list/index_en.htm
([4]) See http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nd/csr2013_spain_en.pdf
([5]) See http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/occasional_paper/2013/pdf/ocp159_en.pdf

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord P-012449/13
aan de Raad
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)
(4 november 2013)

Betreft: EU-tabaksovereenkomsten en -betalingen aan lidstaten

1. Sinds 2004 hebben de Commissie en afzonderlijke lidstaten verschillende overeenkomsten gesloten met de grootste sigarettenproducten, waarin aanzienlijke jaarlijkse financiële overdrachten aan de begroting van de Unie zijn opgenomen. Kan de Raad aangeven hoe de -90,3 % van deze bedragen, waarover overeenkomst was bereikt met de Commissie, onder de afzonderlijke lidstaten werd verdeeld? Hoe is men tot dit precieze getal gekomen?

2. Hoeveel werd elk jaar sinds 2004 overgedragen aan elk van de betrokken lidstaten?

3. In deze overeenkomsten en de desbetreffende notawisseling tijdens de onderhandelingen over deze overeenkomsten, heeft het Europees Parlement aanbevolen en gevraagd dat dit bijkomende „inkomen" voor de lidstaten zou worden gebruikt voor de bestrijding van de smokkel van tabaksproducten en de instroom van namaaksigaretten. Kan de Raad voor elke lidstaat, voor elke overeenkomst en voor elk financieel jaar van de duur van de overeenkomsten aangeven welke bijkomende acties, programma's en projecten door deze financiële toewijzingen werden gefinancierd?

Antwoord
(23 december 2013)

De Raad beschikt niet over de door het geachte parlementslid gevraagde informatie, aangezien de Raad geen partij is bij deze overeenkomsten.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-012449/13
to the Council
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)
(4 November 2013)

Subject: EU tobacco agreements and payments to Member States

1. Since 2004 the Commission and individual Member States have concluded several agreements with the major cigarette producers which include substantial financial annual transfers to the Union's budget. Could the Council indicate how the — 90.3% of these amounts which was agreed with the Commission was distributed between the individual Member States? How was this precise figure arrived at?

2. How much has been transferred each year since 2004 to each of the Member States involved?

3. In the agreements and the corresponding exchange of notes during the negotiations on these agreements, it was it was recommended and requested by the European Parliament that this extra 'income' for the Member States would be used in the fight against the smuggling of tobacco products and the influx of counterfeit cigarettes. Could the Council indicate, for each Member State and for each agreement, what extra actions, programmes and projects were financed from these financial allocations for each financial year of the duration of the agreements?

Reply
(23 December 2013)

The information requested by the Honourable Member is not available to the Council, since the Council is not party to the agreements referred to.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-012457/13
alla Commissione
Crescenzio Rivellini (PPE)
(5 novembre 2013)

Oggetto: Trasporto e trattamento dei rifiuti napoletani in Olanda

Considerato che, dall'aprile 2013, dopo essersi aggiudicata l'appalto pubblico emesso dal comune di Napoli, la ditta belga Indaver si occupa dello smaltimento dei rifiuti napoletani, solo quelli classificati come urbani e non nocivi, trasportandoli al prezzo di 138 euro per tonnellata, dal porto di Napoli al termovalorizzatore di una delle sue filiali olandesi installato sul porto AZN di Moerdjik.

Considerato che l'impianto olandese Indaver, dove vengono scaricati i rifiuti del Comune di Napoli, ha due linee, una per i rifiuti urbani (forno a griglie che opera a 800°/900°) e una per i rifiuti tossici o/e nocivi (forno a tamburo rotante che opera a 1200°) e che, da quanto è dato sapere, una volta arrivati sul molo di Moerdjik, i rifiuti vengono divisi tra urbani e nocivi e inviati rispettivamente nelle apposite linee del termovalorizzatore.

Considerato che la cifra della raccolta differenziata a Napoli rimane bassissima.

Considerato che il regolamento (CE) n. 1013/2006 vieta il trasporto dei rifiuti tossici e/o nocivi in Europa.

Si chiede alla Commissione europea ed in particolare alla DG Ambiente quali sono le azioni che l'Unione europea ha messo in campo per controllare che i rifiuti trasportati da Napoli all'Olanda non siano anche del tipo nocivo e/o pericoloso e che rispettino i regolamenti europei?

Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione
(19 dicembre 2013)

Il regolamento (CE) n. 1013/2006 relativo alle spedizioni di rifiuti ([1]) non vieta la spedizione di rifiuti pericolosi all'interno dell'UE. Tali spedizioni, siano esse destinate allo smaltimento o al recupero, sono subordinate alla procedura di notifica e autorizzazione preventive scritte.

Le caratteristiche fisiche e l'identificazione dei rifiuti sono indicate nei documenti di notifica che accompagnano ciascuna spedizione. A norma di detto regolamento, una spedizione effettuata con modalità contrarie ai documenti di notifica è ritenuta illecita. Gli Stati membri sono tenuti a svolgere controlli a campione sulle spedizioni di rifiuti e a comminare sanzioni qualora una spedizione risulti illecita.

La Commissione vigila con cadenza regolare sull'attuazione del regolamento negli Stati membri. Nel caso in cui pervengano informazioni documentate circa una violazione del regolamento in uno Stato membro, la Commissione adotta le azioni necessarie per verificare la situazione di concerto con le rispettive autorità nazionali.

([1]) GU L 190 del 12.7.2006, pag. 1.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012457/13
to the Commission
Crescenzio Rivellini (PPE)
(5 November 2013)

Subject: Transportation and treatment of waste from Naples in the Netherlands

Since winning a public procurement contract with Naples City Council in April 2013, the Belgian firm Indaver has been managing the disposal of the city's waste, restricted to waste classified as urban and non-hazardous. The firm ships the waste at a cost of EUR 138 per tonne from the port of Naples to a thermal treatment plant owned by one of its Dutch subsidiaries at the AZN site in the port of Moerdijk.

The Indaver plant in the Netherlands which receives the urban waste from Naples has two units: one for urban waste (a grate combustion incinerator, operating at 800°C/900°C) and one for toxic and/or hazardous waste (a rotary kiln incinerator, operating at 1200°C). According to reports, once the waste arrives on the quayside in Moerdijk it is separated into urban waste and hazardous waste before being sent on to the appropriate section of the thermal treatment plant.

Meanwhile, the quantity of waste separated in Naples remains extremely low.

Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 forbids the shipping of toxic and/or hazardous waste within the EU.

Can the Commission (DG Environment in particular) state what action the European Union has put in place to check whether the waste transported from Naples to the Netherlands contains any toxic and/or hazardous waste and that it complies with EU rules?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(19 December 2013)

Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste ([1]) does not prohibit the shipment of hazardous waste within the EU. Such shipments, whether destined for disposal or recovery, are subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent. The physical characteristics and the identification of the waste are shown on the notification documents that accompany each shipment. According to the regulation, a shipment that is effected in a way contrary to the notification documents is considered to be an illegal shipment. Member States are obliged to carry out spot checks on shipments of waste and apply penalties in case a shipment is found to be illegal.

The Commission regularly monitors the implementation of the regulation in the Member States. If it receives documented information that a violation of the regulation has taken place in a Member State, it will take the necessary step to verify the situation with the respective national authorities.

([1]) OJ L 190, 12.7.2006.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012461/13
à la Commission
Christine De Veyrac (PPE)
(5 novembre 2013)

Objet: Utilisation des nouvelles technologies pour la lutte contre le chômage en Europe

À l'heure où l'Union européenne compte un nombre croissant de chômeurs, de nouvelles méthodes de recherche d'emplois se mettent en place.

En effet, il apparaît que la recherche de travail est en pleine révolution numérique.

En France, de plus en plus de demandeurs d'emplois délaissent l'établissement Pôle Emploi, chargé de la gestion des emplois sur le territoire français, pour privilégier les réseaux sociaux et des sites internet recensant certaines offres d'emploi. De même, on observe une montée en puissance des réseaux sociaux comme canaux de recrutement.

Ces sites internet sont d'autant plus appréciés que, dans un marché de l'emploi éparpillé, ils aspirent toutes les offres en ligne qui sont accessibles et les rendent lisibles par une interface simplifiée, sur ordinateur et sur mobile. De plus, ces modes de recherche d'emplois sont considérés comme plus efficaces pour une prise de contact directe et rapide.

1. Aussi, la Commission entend-elle promouvoir l'accès aux nouvelles technologies et aux réseaux sociaux afin de favoriser la fluidité de l'information sur le marché de l'emploi en Europe?

2. La Commission compte-t-elle encourager les formations au niveau européen pour la maîtrise de ces plateformes, voire également la mise en place d'un réseau européen de recherche d'emplois?

Réponse donnée par M. Andor au nom de la Commission
(9 janvier 2014)

La Commission travaille avec le réseau des services publics de l'emploi à la modernisation des services qu'ils proposent. Dans leur contribution à la stratégie Europe 2020 ([1]), les services publics de l'emploi ont confirmé que les services d'aujourd'hui sont par essence dépendants des technologies de l'information et que des services en ligne tels que les bases de données des services publics de l'emploi contenant des offres d'emploi peuvent être utilisées en complément d'autres moyens de communication, pour répondre aux besoins des clients. Le programme d'apprentissage mutuel de la Commission pour les services publics de l'emploi est régulièrement utilisé pour l'échange de bonnes pratiques dans ce domaine.

La promotion des compétences numériques permettant aux demandeurs d'emploi d'effectuer une recherche d'emploi en ligne est un volet des initiatives de la Commission telles que le panorama européen des compétences ou Europass, par exemple.

En ce qui concerne EURES, le réseau européen de l'emploi, dont l'objectif est de faciliter la mobilité à l'intérieur de l'UE, la Commission a mis en place une plate-forme moderne pour le portail EURES ([2]), accompagnée de nouveaux services innovants. Le nouveau portail devrait permettre l'accès à un réservoir considérablement élargi d'offres d'emploi et de CV et le processus d'appariement de la bonne personne au bon emploi sera amélioré, notamment par la mise en œuvre d'un outil de recherche sémantique et de mise en correspondance.

Le nouveau portail proposera également des informations intéressantes et pertinentes et des fonctionnalités telles que des événements virtuels et des accès aux réseaux sociaux qui inciteront les utilisateurs, en particulier les jeunes, à venir consulter le portail avant même de devenir des demandeurs d'emploi actifs.

EURES travaille parallèlement à développer sa présence sur les plateformes des médias sociaux et les conseillers EURES suivent des formations à l'utilisation des outils offerts par les médias sociaux, pour garantir que les offres d'emploi atteignent leur public, où qu'il se trouve.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=105&langId=fr
([2]) https://eures.europa.eu

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012461/13
to the Commission
Christine De Veyrac (PPE)
(5 November 2013)

Subject: Use of new technologies in Europe's fight against unemployment

At a time when the European Union has a growing number of people out of work, new ways of looking for jobs are emerging.

Indeed, it would appear that the process of looking for a job is undergoing a digital revolution.

In France, jobseekers are increasingly abandoning the Pôle Emploi, the agency responsible for managing employment across France, in favour of social networks and websites that list job advertisements. Similarly, we have seen that social networks are becoming increasingly important recruitment channels.

These websites are even more popular because, in a fragmented labour market, they pick up all accessible online advertisements and make them available via a simplified interface for computers and mobiles. Moreover, these methods of looking for a job are seen as a more efficient way of making direct contact with recruiters.

1. Does the Commission intend to promote access to new technologies and social networks in order to improve the flow of information in the European labour market?

2. Does the Commission plan to promote EU-wide training to help people get to grips with these platforms, or indeed the introduction of a European jobseekers network?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(9 January 2014)

The Commission works with the network of Public Employment Services (PES) on modernising their service delivery. In their contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy ([1]), the PES confirmed that modern service delivery has become fundamentally IT-dependent and that e-services like PES job vacancies databases can be used to complement other channels to meet clients' needs. The Commission's mutual learning programme for PES is regularly used for exchange of good practices in this area.

The promotion of e-skills enabling jobseekers to use digital job search channels is part of the Commission's skills initiatives such as the EU Skills Panorama, Europass, etc.

Within EURES, the European Jobs Network which facilitates intra-EU mobility, the Commission has put in place a modern platform for the EURES portal ([2]) and introduced new and innovative services. The new portal is expected to give access to a considerably increased pool of European job vacancies and CVs and the process of matching the right person to the right job will be improved e.g. by the implementation of a semantic search and match engine.

The new portal will also offer interesting and relevant information and features such as virtual events and social networking that will attract users, in particular young people, to come to the portal even before they are active jobseekers.

EURES is at the same time extending its presence on social media platform and EURES advisers are being trained on the use of social media tools so that job offers will reach the audience wherever they are.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=105&langId=en
([2]) https://eures.europa.eu

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-012463/13
à la Commission
Christine De Veyrac (PPE)
(5 novembre 2013)

Objet: Expansion de la drogue «Slam» contenant de la méphédrone

La consommation de «Slam», défini comme la drogue du sexe, s'affiche en hausse dans plusieurs régions d'Europe, et notamment dans le Sud-Ouest de la France, dans la région du Languedoc-Roussillon. Cette drogue est faite à base de méphédrone, molécule de synthèse, interdite à la vente en France depuis décembre 2010. Ce produit a la réputation d'être un supercarburant pour des nuits sans fin et des week-ends de marathon sexuel. En effet, cette drogue permettrait de tenir deux jours sans dormir et sans manger et améliorerait les performances sexuelles et les sensations.

La méphédrone, également disponible en comprimés, pourrait facilement être achetée sur Internet malgré son interdiction.

Cette drogue comporte néanmoins de dangereux effets secondaires, physiques comme psychiques. Sa consommation engendre également une multiplication des comportements à risque et participe de manière significative à la hausse observée des contaminations au VIH et à l'hépatite C.

Pour faire face à ces dangers, la Commission compte-t-elle réglementer la circulation des produits à base de méphédrone sur le territoire européen et adopter les mesures nécessaires pour protéger les citoyens européens?

Réponse donnée par Mme Reding au nom de la Commission
(8 janvier 2014)

La Commission est consciente de l'apparition fréquente et de la propagation rapide de nouvelles substances psychoactives sur le marché intérieur de l'UE. La méphédrone a fait l'objet de contrôles et de sanctions pénales dans l'Union européenne en décembre 2010, à la suite d'une proposition de la Commission.

Depuis 2005, les États membres ont notifié plus de 300 nouvelles substances psychoactives au moyen du mécanisme d'échange rapide d'informations géré par l'Observatoire européen des drogues et des toxicomanies (OEDT) et Europol. Le rythme de notification des nouvelles substances psychoactives s'est accéléré au cours des dernières années, plusieurs substances étant signalées chaque semaine.

Le 17 septembre 2013, la Commission a présenté deux propositions législatives sur les nouvelles substances psychoactives ([1]) afin de renforcer la réaction de l'UE face à ce phénomène croissant. Les propositions visent à améliorer le contrôle et l'évaluation des risques des nouvelles substances psychoactives, et à trouver des réponses plus rapides et plus proportionnées permettant de réduire la disponibilité des substances qui présentent des risques pour la santé, la société et la sécurité.

Selon les propositions de la Commission, les nouvelles substances psychoactives présentant de graves risques pour la santé, la société et la sécurité seraient soumises à des restrictions d'accès au marché dans l'ensemble de l'UE et retirées de tous les canaux de distribution, y compris l'internet. Cela signifie que leur production, leur fabrication, leur mise sur le marché, y compris leur importation dans l'Union, leur transport et leur exportation à partir de l'Union seront interdits, sauf pour des utilisations explicitement autorisées, ainsi que pour la recherche et le développement. Cette interdiction reposerait sur le droit pénal, la proposition envisageant en effet de soumettre les nouvelles substances psychoactives à haut risque aux dispositions de droit pénal applicables aux substances contrôlées dans le cadre des conventions des Nations unies sur les stupéfiants.

([1]) COM(2013) 618 final et COM(2013) 619 final.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-012463/13
to the Commission
Christine De Veyrac (PPE)
(5 November 2013)

Subject: Rise in use of the mephedrone-based drug 'Slam'

The use of 'Slam', known as the 'sex drug', is on the rise in several areas of Europe, including in particular the Languedoc-Roussillon region in south-western France. This drug is made using mephedrone, a synthetic molecule that has been banned from sale in France since December 2010. This product has a reputation for being a 'superfuel' that enables users to stay up all night and enjoy weekends of sexual marathons. It is true that this drug allows users to stay up for two days without sleeping or eating, enhances sexual performance and heightens sensations.

Despite being a banned substance, mephedrone, which is also available in tablet form, can easily be purchased online.

However, this drug has dangerous side effects, both physical and psychological. Its use has also resulted in an increase in high-risk behaviours and has contributed significantly to the recorded rise in HIV and hepatitis C infections.

In order to combat these dangers, does the Commission plan to control the spread of mephedrone-based products across EU countries and to adopt the measures needed to protect EU citizens?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(8 January 2014)

The Commission is aware of the frequent emergence and rapid spread of new psychoactive substances in the EU internal market. Mephedrone was subjected to control and criminal sanctions across the EU in December 2010, following a proposal from the Commission.

Since 2005, Member States have notified more than 300 new psychoactive substances through the mechanism for rapid exchange of information managed by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol. The pace of notification of new psychoactive substances has accelerated in recent years, with more than one substance notified each week.

On 17 September 2013, the Commission presented two legislative proposals on new psychoactive substances ([1]), aimed at strengthening the EU response to this growing problem. The proposals seek to enhance the monitoring and risk assessment of new psychoactive substances, and to enable swifter and more proportionate answers to reduce the availability of those substances that pose health, social and safety risks.

Under the proposals, new psychoactive substances posing severe health, social and safety risks would be subjected to market restriction across the EU and withdrawn from all distribution channels, including the Internet. This means that their production, manufacture, making available on the market, including importation to the Union, transport, and exportation from the Union will be prohibited, except for explicitly authorised uses, and for research and development. This prohibition would be backed by criminal law, as the proposals envisage that new psychoactive substances posing severe risks are subjected to the criminal law provisions that apply to drugs controlled under the UN Conventions on drugs.

([1]) COM(2013) 618 final and COM(2013) 619 final.

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