

## IV

(Informacje)

INFORMACJE INSTYTUCJI, ORGANÓW I JEDNOSTEK ORGANIZACYJNYCH  
UNII EUROPEJSKIEJ

## PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI

## PYTANIA PISEMNE Z ODPOWIEDZIĄ

Pytania pisemne skierowane przez posłów do Parlamentu Europejskiego i odpowiedzi na te  
pytania udzielone przez instytucję Unii Europejskiej

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Treść	Strona
<b>E-000756/14</b> by Rachida Dati to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — The EU must be committed to fighting against the persecution of Christians around the world	
Version française .....	13
English version .....	14
<b>P-002370/14</b> by Hans-Peter Martin to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Average salary of European External Action Service staff	
Deutsche Fassung .....	15
English version .....	16
<b>E-002538/14</b> by Diane Dodds to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Rising religious persecution	
English version .....	17
<b>E-003049/14</b> by Oreste Rossi and Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Visit by EU High Representative to Iran — First visit by European foreign policy chief since 2008 — Talks doomed to failure	
Versione italiana .....	18
English version .....	19
<b>E-003089/14</b> by Carlo Fidanza, Marco Scurria and Magdi Cristiano Allam to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Protecting the Italian-speaking community in Crimea	
Versione italiana .....	20
English version .....	21
<b>E-003233/14</b> by David Casa to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Ukrainian Snipers	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	22
English version .....	23

<b>E-003285/14</b> by Elena Băsescu to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> EU accession prospects for Eastern European partners	
Versiunea în limba română .....	24
English version .....	25
<b>E-003456/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Instability in Eastern Europe and the risks for the Baltic States	
Versione italiana .....	26
English version .....	27
<b>E-003475/14</b> by Charles Tannock to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Application of EU privacy law with regard to criminals	
English version .....	28
<b>E-003545/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> EU cooperation with third countries in CSDP missions	
Versione italiana .....	29
English version .....	30
<b>P-003562/14</b> by Corina Crețu to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — European Union response in view of the situation in Transnistria	
Versiunea în limba română .....	31
English version .....	32
<b>E-003572/14</b> by Franck Proust to the Council	
<i>Subject:</i> Common defence	
Version française .....	33
English version .....	34
<b>E-003628/14</b> by Antigoni Papadopoulou to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> The Memoranda and current urgent needs	
Ελληνική έκδοση .....	35
English version .....	36
<b>E-003810/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> US deliveries of nonlethal aid to Syrian rebels	
Versione italiana .....	37
English version .....	38
<b>E-003835/14</b> by Marc Tarabella to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Blue growth	
Version française .....	39
English version .....	40
<b>E-003875/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Development and more widespread use of underwater drones	
Versione italiana .....	41
English version .....	42
<b>E-003960/14</b> by Nikolaos Chountis to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Control of Greek customs operations	
Ελληνική έκδοση .....	43
English version .....	44
<b>E-003995/14</b> by Cristiana Muscardini to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> 2013 — annus horribilis for human rights in China	
Versione italiana .....	45
English version .....	46
<b>E-004096/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — The paltry diplomatic role being played by the EU in finding a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Ukraine	
Versione italiana .....	47
English version .....	48

<b>E-004101/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Fresh demonstrations in Ukraine, and risk of the country breaking up	
Versione italiana .....	49
English version .....	50
<b>E-004167/14</b> by Cristiana Muscardini to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Violence against migrants in Spain	
Versione italiana .....	51
English version .....	52
<b>E-004223/14</b> by Claudette Abela Baldacchino to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Child soldiers	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	53
English version .....	54
<b>E-004268/14</b> by Isabelle Durant to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Memorandum of understanding between EU and Israel	
Version française .....	55
English version .....	56
<b>E-004395/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Unilateral declaration of independence in the Donetsk region	
Versione italiana .....	57
English version .....	58
<b>E-004398/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Death of a European citizen in Homs	
Versione italiana .....	59
English version .....	60
<b>E-004454/14</b> by Elena Băsescu to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Ukraine support group	
Versiunea în limba română .....	61
English version .....	62
<b>E-004500/14</b> by Diane Dodds to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Law enforcement	
English version .....	63
<b>E-004503/14</b> by Diane Dodds to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Interreg funding	
English version .....	64
<b>E-004515/14</b> by Nikolaos Chountis to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Contract for the sale of Hellinikon SA through the HRADF	
Ελληνική έκδοση .....	65
English version .....	66
<b>P-004581/14</b> by Silvia-Adriana Țicău to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Invalidation of Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of data	
Versiunea în limba română .....	67
English version .....	68
<b>E-004614/14</b> by Elena Băsescu to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Counterfeit medicines	
Versiunea în limba română .....	69
English version .....	70
<b>E-004647/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Ozone concentration levels	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	71
English version .....	72

<b>E-004684/14</b> by Marlene Mizzi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Smarter visa policy	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	73
English version .....	74
<b>E-004701/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Cybercrime and children	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	75
English version .....	76
<b>E-004702/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Domain names	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	77
English version .....	78
<b>E-004707/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> EU funding for local councils	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	79
English version .....	80
<b>E-004784/14</b> by Gilles Pargneaux to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Legislative framework for improving waste management in the EU	
Version française .....	81
English version .....	83
<b>E-004731/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Recycling targets	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	82
English version .....	83
<b>E-004776/14</b> by Erik Bánki, Csaba Sógor, Petru Constantin Luhan, Teresa Riera Madurell, Oreste Rossi, Carl Schlyter, Nikos Chrysogelos, Michèle Rivasi, Monika Panayotova and Kathleen Van Brempt to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Inflammatory bowel disease	
българска версия .....	84
Versión española .....	86
Ελληνική έκδοση .....	88
Version française .....	90
Versione italiana .....	92
Magyar változat .....	94
Nederlandse versie .....	96
Versiunea în limba română .....	98
Svensk version .....	100
English version .....	102
<b>E-004823/14</b> by Judith Sargentini, Jean Lambert and Karima Delli to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Tackling modern slavery in the South Indian textile and garment industry	
Version française .....	104
Nederlandse versie .....	105
English version .....	106
<b>E-004824/14</b> by Ana Gomes to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Cases of Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev and Aron Atabek in Kazakhstan	
Versão portuguesa .....	107
English version .....	108
<b>E-004827/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Fiscal Compact implementation	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	109
English version .....	110
<b>E-004882/14</b> by Marlene Mizzi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Budapest Memorandum of 1994	
Verzjoni Maltija .....	111
English version .....	112



<b>E-004970/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Council	
<i>Subject:</i> Food safety in agricultural products	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	113
English version .....	114
<b>E-004996/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Food safety in agricultural products	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	115
English version .....	116
<b>E-005032/14</b> by Monica Luisa Macovei to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Discrimination of women in Iraq	
Versiunea în limba română .....	117
English version .....	118
<b>E-005033/14</b> by Monica Luisa Macovei to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Child marriage in Malawi	
Versiunea în limba română .....	119
English version .....	120
<b>E-005034/14</b> by Monica Luisa Macovei to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Freedom of speech in Jordan	
Versiunea în limba română .....	121
English version .....	122
<b>E-005035/14</b> by Monica Luisa Macovei to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Human rights issues in Sri Lanka	
Versiunea în limba română .....	123
English version .....	124
<b>E-005037/14</b> by Monica Luisa Macovei to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Human rights violations by the Ethiopian police	
Versiunea în limba română .....	125
English version .....	126
<b>E-005038/14</b> by Monica Luisa Macovei to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Illegal use of force against Yemeni protesters	
Versiunea în limba română .....	127
English version .....	128
<b>E-005066/14</b> by Marc Tarabella to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Travel websites and redress	
Version française .....	129
English version .....	130
<b>E-005109/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Council	
<i>Subject:</i> People with disabilities — employment in EU institutions	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	131
English version .....	132
<b>E-005110/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Council	
<i>Subject:</i> People with disabilities — employment in EU institutions	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	131
English version .....	132
<b>E-005161/14</b> by Béla Kovács to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> A welcome for carcinogenic soot, to take the place of carbon dioxide	
Magyar változat .....	133
English version .....	134
<b>E-005216/14</b> by Theodoros Skylakakis to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Amendment on the granting of loans to Greek political parties	
Ελληνική έκδοση .....	135
English version .....	136

<b>E-005234/14</b> by Charles Tannock to the Council <i>Subject:</i> Blood minerals in North Korea	
English version .....	137
<b>P-005254/14</b> by Eva Lichtenberger to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Decision of the Court of Justice on the Data Retention Directive/Article 15 of the directive on privacy and electronic communications	
Deutsche Fassung .....	138
English version .....	139
<b>E-005284/14</b> by Claudette Abela Baldacchino to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Gender and SMEs	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	140
English version .....	141
<b>E-005285/14</b> by Claudette Abela Baldacchino to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Household WEEE targets	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	142
English version .....	143
<b>E-005304/14</b> by Gilles Pargneaux to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> European action plan against the planned obsolescence of products	
Version française .....	144
English version .....	145
<b>E-005324/14</b> by Emer Costello to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Natural catastrophe insurance markets and homes at risk of flooding and storm damage	
English version .....	146
<b>E-005355/14</b> by Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Online gaming	
Versiunea în limba română .....	147
English version .....	148
<b>E-005357/14</b> by Roberta Metsola to the Council <i>Subject:</i> Trafficking in human beings	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	149
English version .....	150
<b>P-005377/14</b> by Franziska Keller to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Post Court of Justice data retention decision: entry/exit system	
Deutsche Fassung .....	151
English version .....	152
<b>E-005380/14</b> by Hiltrud Breyer to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Continued operation of largest toxic landfill site in Europe despite failure to carry out an environmental impact assessment	
Deutsche Fassung .....	153
English version .....	154
<b>E-005397/14</b> by Diane Dodds to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Recent protests in Donetsk	
English version .....	155
<b>E-005398/14</b> by Kinga Gál to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Disregard for a child's rights in legal proceedings	
Magyar változat .....	156
English version .....	157
<b>E-005423/14</b> by Antigoni Papadopoulou to the Commission <i>Subject:</i> Better terms for the funding of small and medium-sized enterprises	
Ελληνική έκδοση .....	158
English version .....	159

<b>E-005427/14</b> by Antigoni Papadopoulou to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Question for written answer No E-014065/2013	
Ελληνική έκδοση .....	160
English version .....	161
<b>E-005437/14</b> by Sonia Alfano to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Nationalities represented in the Commission	
Version française .....	162
Versione italiana .....	163
English version .....	164
<b>E-005484/14</b> by Marlene Mizzi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> People with disabilities	
Verżjoni Maltija .....	165
English version .....	166
<b>E-005491/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Next Generation Identification Project	
Versione italiana .....	167
English version .....	168
<b>E-005492/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Regeneration of green spaces in urban areas	
Versione italiana .....	169
English version .....	170
<b>E-005493/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Sharka, the new pome fruit virus	
Versione italiana .....	171
English version .....	172
<b>E-005494/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Incidents on the Temple Mount	
Versione italiana .....	173
English version .....	174
<b>E-005495/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Railway accident in India	
Versione italiana .....	175
English version .....	176
<b>E-005497/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> VP/HR — Nigeria — over 100 female students abducted	
Versione italiana .....	177
English version .....	178
<b>E-005498/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Pilot project for the replenishment of aquifers	
Versione italiana .....	179
English version .....	180
<b>E-005499/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Medical appointments via Skype for patients with motor difficulties	
Versione italiana .....	181
English version .....	182
<b>E-005500/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Disposal of WEEE	
Versione italiana .....	183
English version .....	184
<b>E-005501/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Seagrass biomass	
Versione italiana .....	185
English version .....	186

<b>E-005516/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Tackling coastal erosion	
Versione italiana .....	185
English version .....	186
<b>E-005502/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Sexual health and awareness	
Versione italiana .....	187
English version .....	188
<b>E-005503/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Genetic decoding to reverse the development of cancer cells	
Versione italiana .....	189
English version .....	190
<b>E-005504/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Low profile of liver diseases	
Versione italiana .....	191
English version .....	192
<b>E-005505/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Medicines and side effects on the liver	
Versione italiana .....	193
English version .....	194
<b>E-005506/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Spa Treatments: excellence in the service of health	
Versione italiana .....	195
English version .....	196
<b>E-005507/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Growth in the number of adolescents who self-harm	
Versione italiana .....	197
English version .....	198
<b>E-005508/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Enhancing the skills of LAGs	
Versione italiana .....	199
English version .....	200
<b>E-005509/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> 'Alternative' approaches to disease prevention	
Versione italiana .....	201
English version .....	202
<b>E-005510/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Some strategies for the treatment of eating disorders	
Versione italiana .....	203
English version .....	204
<b>E-005511/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Saturated fat and the link with breast cancer	
Versione italiana .....	205
English version .....	206
<b>E-005512/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Gut microbiota and related diseases	
Versione italiana .....	207
English version .....	208
<b>E-005513/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Lifesaving bracelet	
Versione italiana .....	209
English version .....	210

<b>E-005514/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Small Italian business is a model of integration	
Versione italiana .....	211
English version .....	212
<b>E-005515/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Environmental regeneration through hemp	
Versione italiana .....	213
English version .....	214
<b>E-005517/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Rare diseases and children	
Versione italiana .....	215
English version .....	216
<b>E-005518/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Protective bacteria which are beneficial to young babies	
Versione italiana .....	217
English version .....	218
<b>E-005519/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Charcoal; an alternative to wood	
Versione italiana .....	219
English version .....	220
<b>E-005520/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Lessons in entrepreneurship	
Versione italiana .....	221
English version .....	222
<b>E-005521/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Database of organ donors	
Versione italiana .....	223
English version .....	224
<b>E-005522/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Upgrading marina berths and attracting tourists	
Versione italiana .....	225
English version .....	226
<b>E-005523/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Creation of a special criminal court to hear charges against the UÇK	
Versione italiana .....	227
English version .....	228
<b>E-005524/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris and Oreste Rossi to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Risks associated with the use of antibacterial soaps	
Versione italiana .....	229
English version .....	230
<b>E-005525/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Pollutant-capturing biodynamic cement	
Versione italiana .....	231
English version .....	232
<b>E-005526/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Low-fat diets for treating asthma	
Versione italiana .....	233
English version .....	234
<b>E-005527/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Integration of movements between land and sea	
Versione italiana .....	235
English version .....	236

<b>E-005528/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Active citizenship 'app'	
Versione italiana .....	237
English version .....	238
<b>E-005529/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Development of 3D printers and risks to intellectual property rights	
Versione italiana .....	239
English version .....	240
<b>E-005530/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Pollution caused by use of the Internet	
Versione italiana .....	241
English version .....	242
<b>E-005531/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Shortcomings of a Chinese project for shielding several city centres from smog	
Versione italiana .....	243
English version .....	244
<b>E-005532/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Strategies for reusing waste material	
Versione italiana .....	245
English version .....	246
<b>E-005533/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Recycling of water	
Versione italiana .....	247
English version .....	248
<b>E-005534/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Project for a new tool to monitor incitement of hatred in European political debate	
Versione italiana .....	249
English version .....	250
<b>E-005535/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Structural funding for companies operating in the defence sector	
Versione italiana .....	251
English version .....	252
<b>E-005536/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Spread of car sharing	
Versione italiana .....	253
English version .....	254
<b>E-005537/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Chinese-Italian space geodesy project and European space cooperation	
Versione italiana .....	255
English version .....	256
<b>E-005538/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Marine waste: pollutants on our tables	
Versione italiana .....	257
English version .....	258
<b>E-005539/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> New tools for diagnosing tumours	
Versione italiana .....	259
English version .....	260
<b>E-005540/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Safe cosmetics	
Versione italiana .....	261
English version .....	262

<b>E-005541/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Food for health	
Versione italiana .....	263
English version .....	264
<b>E-005542/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Organic compound for transfusions	
Versione italiana .....	265
English version .....	266
<b>E-005543/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Developments in the field of haemostatics	
Versione italiana .....	267
English version .....	268
<b>E-005544/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Non-invasive chemotherapy drug	
Versione italiana .....	269
English version .....	270
<b>E-005545/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Effectiveness of new luminous devices for pedestrian crossings	
Versione italiana .....	271
English version .....	272
<b>E-005546/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Risks associated with the spread of the Louisiana red swamp crayfish in the Adriatic	
Versione italiana .....	273
English version .....	274
<b>E-005547/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Depression in the workplace	
Versione italiana .....	275
English version .....	276
<b>E-005548/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Terrorist activities targeting the anti-polio campaign	
Versione italiana .....	277
English version .....	278
<b>E-005549/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Contaminated area in Brescia	
Versione italiana .....	279
English version .....	280
<b>E-005550/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Restoration of a ship in order to promote inclusiveness	
Versione italiana .....	281
English version .....	282
<b>E-005551/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Monitoring the consumption of cruise ships	
Versione italiana .....	283
English version .....	284
<b>E-005552/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Nuclear waste observatory	
Versione italiana .....	285
English version .....	286
<b>E-005553/14</b> by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission	
<i>Subject:</i> Alarming trends in child and adolescent abuse	
Versione italiana .....	287
English version .....	288

**E-00554/14** by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris to the Commission

*Subject:* Tensions arising from the construction of a gas pipeline on the border between China and Burma

Versione italiana .....	289
English version .....	290



(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-000756/14  
à la Commission (Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante)**

**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

(27 janvier 2014)

**Objet:** VP/HR — L'UE doit s'engager pour lutter contre la persécution des chrétiens dans le monde

Selon l'index mondial de la persécution établi par l'ONG Portes Ouvertes, plus de 150 millions de chrétiens seraient actuellement persécutés dans le monde. On observe d'ailleurs une tendance à la hausse ces dernières années.

Au regard des informations fournies par l'association Aide à l'Église en Détresse (ADE) et par Portes ouvertes, il apparaît que les chrétiens subiraient 75 % des cas de persécution religieuse dans le monde.

En 2013, ce ne sont pas moins de 2 123 chrétiens qui ont été tués du fait de leur religion, dont plus de la moitié en Syrie.

Il est en effet constaté que la situation devient particulièrement dramatique dans certains pays ayant connu les soulèvements du printemps arabe. Les conflits et les transitions politiques difficiles rendent les minorités chrétiennes plus vulnérables. C'est notamment le cas en Syrie, où l'instabilité politique a mis fin à la protection dont bénéficiait cette minorité auparavant, mais également en Égypte.

En effet, toujours selon l'ONG Portes Ouvertes, la Syrie afficherait cette année le plus grand nombre de chrétiens assassinés avec 1 213 assassinats avérés, devant le Nigeria. L'Égypte, quant à elle, serait le premier pays en terme de violences infligées aux chrétiens en 2013. On dénombre 167 actes violents de persécutions avérés et plus de 492 tentatives de fermetures d'églises ou bâtiments annexes.

En outre, les persécutions ne se limitent pas à des violences physiques mais incluent également des pressions, des interdictions, des discriminations liées à leur religion.

Aussi, quelles démarches la haute représentante pour les affaires étrangères compte-t-elle entreprendre pour condamner ces violences et ces violations flagrantes de la liberté de religion et du respect des Droits de l'homme, et s'assurer ainsi de la protection des chrétiens dans ces régions?

**Réponse donnée par M<sup>me</sup> Ashton, Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante au nom de la Commission**

(17 juillet 2014)

Depuis quelques années, l'Union européenne consacre de plus en plus d'attention au droit à la liberté de religion ou de conviction. Dans ses conclusions de février 2011 sur l'intolérance, la discrimination et la violence fondées sur la religion ou la conviction, qui faisaient directement suite aux conclusions de novembre 2009 sur la liberté de religion ou de conviction, le Conseil a réaffirmé que l'Union européenne était résolument attachée à la promotion et à la protection de la liberté de religion ou de conviction sans discrimination aucune et a exprimé son inquiétude face au nombre croissant d'actes d'intolérance religieuse et de violence, en particulier envers les chrétiens et leurs lieux de culte.

Par l'adoption, en juin 2013, de lignes directrices sur la liberté de religion ou de conviction, l'UE a réaffirmé que la liberté de religion ou de conviction était une des priorités de sa politique extérieure en matière de Droits de l'homme et a conforté son attachement à défendre cette liberté universelle menacée. Les lignes directrices donnent notamment aux fonctionnaires de l'UE des conseils pratiques sur la manière d'empêcher les violations de la liberté de religion ou de conviction, d'analyser les cas concrets et de réagir de manière efficace aux violations quel que soit l'endroit où elles sont commises.

De nombreuses déclarations et appels ont été émis pour rappeler aux États leur devoir primordial de protéger tous les individus, en particulier les personnes appartenant à des minorités — y compris les chrétiens — contre les discriminations, la violence et les autres violations des Droits de l'homme. La liberté de religion ou de conviction est abordée en profondeur au cours des dialogues sur les Droits de l'homme avec les pays tiers et à toute occasion lorsque cela est considéré comme nécessaire, au niveau bilatéral ou multilatéral. Des projets spécifiques relatifs à la liberté de religion ou de conviction sont également soutenus, en particulier au moyen de l'instrument européen pour la démocratie et les Droits de l'homme.

L'UE va continuer de défendre le droit pour toutes les personnes appartenant à des communautés et à des minorités religieuses de pratiquer leur religion et leur culte librement, individuellement ou en communauté, sans craindre d'être la cible de manifestations d'intolérance ou d'attaques.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000756/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

(27 January 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — The EU must be committed to fighting against the persecution of Christians around the world

According to the global index of persecution published by the NGO Portes Ouvertes, more than 150 million Christians are currently being persecuted around the world. What is more, an upward trend has been observed in recent years.

In view of the information provided by the association Aide à l'Église en Détresse (ADE) and by Portes Ouvertes, it seems that 75% of victims of religious persecution around the world are Christians.

In 2013, no fewer than 2 123 Christians were killed because of their religion, with more than half of these murders being committed in Syria.

Indeed, it has been observed that the situation has become particularly serious in certain countries that have witnessed uprisings during the Arab Spring. Conflicts and difficult political transitions make Christian minorities more vulnerable. This is particularly the case in Syria, where political instability has put an end to the protection from which this minority benefited in the past, but this is also happening in Egypt.

Indeed, the NGO Portes Ouvertes also claims that Syria had the highest number of Christians murdered this year, with 1 213 confirmed murders, followed by Nigeria. Egypt, for its part, is reported to be in the top spot in terms of violence inflicted on Christians in 2013. 167 violent acts of persecution have been reported, with more than 492 attempts to close churches or annex buildings.

Furthermore, persecutions are not limited to physical violence, but also include pressure, bans and discrimination on the basis of religion.

In light of this, what steps does the High Representative intend to take in order to condemn these acts of violence and flagrant violations of the freedom of religion and the respect of human rights, and therefore ensure that Christians are protected in these regions?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(17 July 2014)

Over the last years, the EU has been increasingly focusing on the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). In February 2011 Conclusions on intolerance, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief, which were a direct follow up of November 2009 Conclusions on FoRB, the Council reaffirmed the strong commitment of the EU to the promotion and protection of FoRB without any discrimination and expressed its concern about the increasing number of acts of religious intolerance and violence, notably against Christians and their places of worship.

With the adoption of guidelines on freedom of religion or belief in June 2013, the EU reiterated that FoRB was one of its priorities in its external Human rights policy and enhanced its dedication to defend this challenged universal freedom. The guidelines notably provide EU officials with practical guidance on how to seek to prevent violations of FoRB, to analyse cases, and to react effectively to violations wherever they occur.

Numerous statements and calls have been made to remind states of their primary duty to protect everyone, not least persons belonging to minorities — including Christians — from discrimination, violence and other human rights violations. FoRB is addressed in depth during human rights dialogues with third countries and at every opportunity when deemed necessary, at bilateral or multilateral level. Specific FoRB projects are also supported, notably through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

The EU will carry on defending the right for all persons belonging to religious communities and minorities to practice their religion and worship freely, individually or in community with others, without fear of intolerance and attacks.

(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-002370/14  
an die Kommission (Vizepräsidentin/Hohe Vertreterin)**

**Hans-Peter Martin (NI)**

(3. März 2014)

*Betrifft:* VP/HR — Durchschnittsgehalt der Bediensteten des Europäischen Auswärtigen Dienstes (EAD)

Wie hoch war das Durchschnittsgehalt der Bediensteten des EAD in den Jahren 2011, 2012 und 2013 für

1. alle Bediensteten des EAD innerhalb der EU und
2. alle Bediensteten des EAD außerhalb der EU?

**Antwort von Frau Ashton — Hohe Vertreterin/Vizepräsidentin im Namen der Kommission**

(17. Juli 2014)

Der EAD beschäftigt seine Mitarbeiter in den verschiedenen Laufbahn- und Besoldungsgruppen gemäß dem Statut der Beamten und den Beschäftigungsbedingungen für die sonstigen Bediensteten. Ihre Bezüge und Vergütungen richten sich nach den darin festgelegten Bestimmungen, die vom Rat und vom Europäischen Parlament angenommen wurden, insbesondere nach Artikel 66 und den Anhängen VII und X des Statuts.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer P-002370/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

**Hans-Peter Martin (NI)**

(3 March 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Average salary of European External Action Service staff

What were the average salaries in the European External Action Service (EEAS) in the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 for:

1. EEAS staff in the EU;
2. EEAS staff outside the EU?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(17 July 2014)

The EEAS employs staff in the different categories and grades covered by the staff regulations and the conditions of employment of other servants. Their remuneration and allowances follow the provisions of the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union approved by the Council and the European Parliament, in particular Article 66 and Annexes VII and X of the Staff Regulations.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002538/14  
to the Commission  
Diane Dodds (NI)  
(5 March 2014)**

*Subject:* Rising religious persecution

Open Doors International, a charity that supports Christians facing persecution for their faith, has said that 2 123 Christians were reported to have been killed during the 12 months ending 31 October 2013, almost twice the equivalent figure of 1 201 for the previous 12 months. Indeed, more Christians were killed in Syria alone during the more recent period than were killed globally in the previous year.

Can the Commission detail what it is doing to combat rising persecution against people of faith across the globe, and perhaps specifically what steps it is taking to ensure the safety of persecuted minorities in Syria?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission  
(17 July 2014)**

Over the last years, the EU has been stepping up its action in defense of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). In 2009 and 2011 Conclusions, the Council highlighted EU's commitment to the promotion and protection of FoRB without any discrimination, and expressed its concern about the increasing number of acts of religious intolerance and violence, notably against Christians and their places of worship.

With the adoption of guidelines on FoRB in June 2013, the EU enhanced its dedication to defend this challenged universal freedom. These guidelines provide EU officials with practical guidance on how to seek to prevent violations of FoRB, to analyse cases, and to react effectively to violations wherever they occur.

Numerous statements and calls have been made to remind states of their primary duty to protect everyone — not least persons belonging to minorities — from violence, discrimination and other human rights violations. FoRB is addressed in depth during human rights dialogues with third countries and at every opportunity when deemed necessary, at bilateral or multilateral level. Specific FoRB projects are also supported, notably through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

In the specific case of Syria, the EU stressed the need to preserve the country traditions of interreligious, inter-ethnic and cultural co-existence, and expressed its concern about the plight of all vulnerable groups, and ethnic and religious minorities, noting that Christians were increasingly targeted by extremist groups. The EU has been calling on all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of the civilian population and to adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-003049/14  
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)  
Oreste Rossi (PPE) e Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(14 marzo 2014)

**Oggetto:** VP/HR — Visita dell'Alto Rappresentante dell'UE in Iran — Prima visita di un capo della diplomazia europea dal 2008 — Un dialogo destinato a fallire

L'Alto Rappresentante per la politica estera dell'UE Catherine Ashton è giunta lo scorso 8 marzo a Teheran per la sua annunciata visita in Iran, la prima di un capo della diplomazia europea dal 2008, accompagnata da una delegazione «politico-economica». La Ashton ha incontrato il presidente Hassan Rohani, il presidente del parlamento Ali Larijani, il ministro degli Esteri Mohammad-Javad Zarif. I colloqui hanno riguardato le relazioni fra Iran e Unione europea e i negoziati fra la Repubblica islamica e il gruppo 5+1 sul nucleare.

Considerato il ruolo che l'Iran sta giocando nel destabilizzare la regione del Medio Oriente in Siria, nella Striscia di Gaza e in Iraq con finanziamenti e supporto logistico-militare verso terroristi e guerriglieri, può l'Alto Rappresentante precisare quanto segue:

1. Ritiene che sia stato opportuno recarsi in visita presso uno Stato così palesemente ostile?
2. Nei colloqui con i rappresentanti iraniani sono stati affrontati temi come gli attacchi a *Camp Liberty* e *Camp Asharaf* o il blocco della nave iraniana carica di missili avanzati M-302 di produzione siriana con un raggio di azione di 100/200 km diretta a Gaza?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

(11 luglio 2014)

Durante la sua visita in Iran dall'8 al 10 marzo, l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha avuto l'opportunità di discutere di questioni importanti connesse con le relazioni bilaterali Unione europea-Iran così come di una serie di questioni di carattere regionale e internazionale, come quelle riguardanti la Siria e l'Afghanistan con le controparti iraniane.

In realtà, il fatto che l'UE e l'Iran abbiano posizioni molto diverse su alcune questioni ribadisce la necessità di discuterne.

Le particolari questioni sollevate dall'onorevole deputato, relative agli attacchi a *Camp Liberty* e *Camp Ashraf* in Iraq nonché all'intercettazione da parte di Israele di una nave nel Mar Rosso, non sono state oggetto di discussione.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003049/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)  
Oreste Rossi (PPE) and Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(14 March 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Visit by EU High Representative to Iran — First visit by European foreign policy chief since 2008 — Talks doomed to failure

On 8 March 2014, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, travelled to Tehran on her announced visit to Iran, the first by a European foreign policy chief since 2008, accompanied by her 'political and economic' delegation. On this occasion, she met President Hassan Rohani, Ali Larijani, Speaker of Parliament, and Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif, to discuss relations between Iran and the European Union and the negotiations between the Islamic Republic and the 5+1 group regarding nuclear technology.

In view of the Iran's contribution to destabilising the Middle East in Syria, the Gaza Strip and Iraq, providing funding and logistic and military support for terrorist and guerrilla organisations:

1. Does the High Representative consider it appropriate to visit such a patently hostile power?
2. Did talks with the Iranian representatives also touch on matters such as the attacks on Camp Liberty and Camp Ashraf or the interception of an Iranian vessel headed for Gaza and carrying advanced M302 missiles of Syrian manufacture with a range of between 100 and 200 km?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(11 July 2014)

During the HR/VP's visit to Iran from 8-10 March, she had the opportunity to discuss important issues relating to EU-Iran bilateral relations as well as a number of issues of regional and international character, such as those concerning Syria and Afghanistan, with her Iranian counterparts.

Although on some issues the EU and Iran have markedly different positions, this only underlines the necessity to discuss these matters.

As to the particular questions by the Honourable Parliamentarians relating to Camp Liberty and Camp Ashraf in Iraq, and the interception by Israel of a vessel in the Red Sea, these matters were not discussed.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-003089/14  
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)  
Carlo Fidanza (PPE), Marco Scurria (PPE) e Magdi Cristiano Allam (EFD)  
(17 marzo 2014)**

Oggetto: VP/HR — Tutela della comunità italoфона in Crimea

In questi giorni di alta tensione nella penisola di Crimea emergono tutte le preoccupazioni della piccola comunità italiana in Crimea, tra le 300 e le 500 persone discendenti di quelle famiglie italiane che, dopo la Rivoluzione d'Ottobre e in particolar modo nel 1942, hanno subito la persecuzione etnica e la deportazione nei gulag sovietici dell'Asia centrale.

Si tratta di una piccola comunità consolidatasi a partire dal XIX secolo durante l'epoca zarista, vittima di un martirio dimenticato, che ora teme di cadere vittima delle tensioni e della possibile guerra civile in Crimea.

Si interroga quindi l'Alto Rappresentante dell'Unione per gli affari esteri e la politica di sicurezza per sapere:

1. se è al corrente della situazione;
2. se intende, in accordo con le autorità italiane, farsi carico presso le autorità della Repubblica autonoma di Crimea, la Russia e il nuovo governo ucraino della tutela di questa minoranza italoфона.

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione  
(10 luglio 2014)**

L'UE è impegnata a sostenere l'unità, l'integrità territoriale, la sovranità e l'indipendenza dell'Ucraina. L'UE condanna con fermezza e non intende riconoscere l'annessione illegale della Crimea e di Sebastopoli da parte della Federazione russa.

L'UE è al corrente del deterioramento generale della situazione dei diritti umani in Crimea e invita tutte le parti a garantire il rispetto dei diritti delle persone appartenenti a minoranze nazionali in linea con le norme internazionali, in particolare quelle del Consiglio d'Europa.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003089/14**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**  
**Carlo Fidanza (PPE), Marco Scurria (PPE) and Magdi Cristiano Allam (EFD)**  
(17 March 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Protecting the Italian-speaking community in Crimea

In these times of heightened tension in the Crimean peninsula, all the concerns of the small Italian community in Crimea are surfacing. This community is made up of between 300 and 500 descendants of those Italian families that were subjected to ethnic cleansing and deportation in the Soviet gulags of Central Asia following the October Revolution, in 1942 in particular.

This is a small community which was established around the start of the 19th century during the Tsarist period, casualty of a forgotten martyrdom, which is now living in fear of falling victim to the tensions and the potential civil war in Crimea.

We would therefore like to ask the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy the following questions:

1. Is she aware of the situation?
2. Does she intend, in conjunction with the Italian authorities, to take up the issue of the protection of this Italian-speaking minority with the authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Russia and the new government of Ukraine.

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**  
(10 July 2014)

The EU is committed to upholding Ukraine's unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. It strongly condemns the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, which it will not recognise.

The EU is aware of the deterioration of the human rights situation in Crimea in general. It calls upon all parties to ensure the respect of the rights of people belonging to national minorities, in line with international standards, notably those of the Council of Europe.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-003233/14  
lill-Kummissjoni (Viċi President/Rappreżentant Gholi)  
David Casa (PPE)  
(19 ta' Marzu 2014)**

Suġġett: VP/HR — Snipers Ukraini

Skont informazzjoni minn ahbarijiet reċenti bbażati fuq telefonata li nkixfet illegalment bejn il-VP/HR Catherine Ashton u l-Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin tal-Estonja, teżisti evidenza tal-preżenza ta' snipers fl-Ukraina <sup>(1)</sup>.

Matul it-telefonata, il-mexxejja tkellmu dwar gruppi ta' provokaturi li kienu fil-pajjiż fi żmien il-protesti u li sparaw lejn id-dimostranti u l-pulizija. Huwa mifhum li dawn il-gruppi kienu jagħmlu parti mill-oppożizzjoni (allegatament mexxejja Maidan). Il-gvern ta' koalizzjoni l-ġdid habbar li mhux se jagħmel investigazzjonijiet dwar il-kwistjoni.

Matul it-telefonata, is-Sa Ashton semmiet il-possibilità ta' investigazzjoni potenzjali mill-UE.

Ġie deċiż jekk l-UE hijjex se taġħmel investigazzjoni? Jekk iva, il-Kummissjoni tista' tipprovdi aktar dettalji dwar il-kamp ta' applikazzjoni u n-natura ta' din l-investigazzjoni?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mir-Rappreżentant Gholi/il-Viċi President Ashton f'isem il-Kummissjoni  
(26 ta' Ġunju 2014)**

L-identità ta' min iwettaq ir-reat għandha tkun stabbilita b'investigazzjoni ġusta u trasparenti tal-kwistjoni, li għandha issir mill-awtoritajiet Ukraini. Dawk responsabbli jridu jittressqu quddiem il-ġustizzja. Il-Bord Konsultattiv Internazzjonali tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, inawguratur fid-9 ta' April, se jagħti pariri fir-rigward tat-tweqqif tal-proċeduri skont l-istandards internazzjonali.

Wara li l-Ukraina tkun irregistrat r-rikonoxximent taġħha tal-ġurisdizzjoni tal-QKI għall-avvenimenti fil-perjodu bejn Novembru 2013 u Frar 2014, huwa f'idejn il-Prosekutur tal-QKI li jevalwa jekk hemmx biżżejjed evidenza biex tinbeda investigazzjoni. Inhegġu lill-Ukraina li tirratifika l-Istatut tal-QKI u li tiżgura li d-dispożizzjonijiet kostituzzjonali meħtieġa, fil-qafas tar-riforma kostituzzjonali komprensiva, huma adottati biex jagħmluh possibbli.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/05/ukraine-bugged-call-catherine-ashton-urmas-paet>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003233/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

**David Casa (PPE)**

(19 March 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Ukrainian Snipers

According to information from recent news based on a leaked phone call between VP/HR Catherine Ashton and the Estonian Minister for Foreign Affairs, there is evidence of the presence of snipers in Ukraine <sup>(1)</sup>.

During the call, the leaders talked about groups of provocateurs being in the country at the time of the protests who shot both protesters and the police. These groups are believed to have been part of the opposition (allegedly Maidan leaders). The new coalition government has announced that they will not conduct any investigation into the matter.

During the call, Ms Ashton mentioned the possibility of a potential investigation by the EU.

Has it been decided whether or not the EU will carry out an investigation? If so, can the Commission provide further details on the scope and nature of this investigation?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(26 June 2014)

The identity of the perpetrators must be established by a fair and transparent investigation into the matter, which should be made by the Ukrainian authorities. Those responsible should be brought to justice. The International Advisory Panel of the Council of Europe, inaugurated on 9 April, will advise to the effect that all procedures are conducted in line with international standards.

After Ukraine has registered its recognition of the ICC jurisdiction for the events in the period ranging from November 2013 to February 2014, it is up to the Prosecutor of the ICC to assess whether there is enough evidence to open an investigation. We encourage Ukraine to ratify the ICC Statute and to ensure that the necessary constitutional provisions, in the framework of the comprehensive constitutional reform, are adopted to make it possible.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/05/ukraine-bugged-call-catherine-ashton-urmas-paet>

(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-003285/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Elena Băsescu (PPE)**  
(20 martie 2014)

*Subiect:* Perspectiva de aderare la Uniunea Europeană pentru statele din vecinătatea estică

În prezent există un focar de instabilitate în estul Europei, cu precădere în Ucraina, care până în acest moment s-a concretizat prin anexarea de către Federația Rusă a unei părți dintr-un stat suveran și independent. De asemenea, Rusia exercită o serie de alte presiuni asupra unor state precum Republica Moldova sau Georgia, scopul nedeclarat fiind abaterea acestora de la parcursul european. Totuși, acest parcurs are în acest moment ca finalitate semnarea Acordului de Asociere, întrucât Uniunea nu a oferit o foaie de parcurs privind o eventuală aderare pentru aceste state.

În lumina ultimelor evenimente la care asistăm în vecinătatea estică a Uniunii, se are în vedere oferirea unei perspective clare de aderare Republicii Moldova, Ucrainei și Georgiei?

**Răspuns dat de dl Füle în numele Comisiei**  
(10 iulie 2014)

UE este ferm hotărâtă să se angajeze într-o asociere politică și o integrare economică mai strânsă cu țările din cadrul Parteneriatului estic pe baza acordurilor de asociere (AA), inclusiv pe baza stabilirii zonelor de liber schimb aprofundate și cuprinzătoare (ZLSAC). Întrucât AA/ZLSAC vor fi implementate în fiecare țară în anii următori, partenerii estici au posibilitatea de a aborda provocările care există de mult timp în ceea ce privește statul de drept, transparența și reformele sectoriale. UE oferă deja un sprijin tehnic și financiar semnificativ care ar putea facilita consolidarea în continuare a relațiilor UE cu aceste țări. Guvernele din Georgia, Republica Moldova și Ucraina și-au exprimat dorința de a adera la UE la un moment dat și un procent semnificativ din populația fiecărei țări este în favoarea unor relații mai strânse cu UE. Declarația Summitului Parteneriatului estic din noiembrie 2013 a confirmat aspirațiile europene și perspectiva europeană exprimate de unii dintre parteneri. În declarația Summitului se menționează că respectarea valorilor comune și punerea în aplicare a acordurilor de asociere vor contribui la viitoare evoluții progresive în cadrul relațiilor bilaterale. În plus, în luna februarie, Consiliul Afaceri Externe a declarat că acordul de asociere nu constituie obiectivul final al cooperării UE-Ucraina.

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-003285/14  
to the Commission  
Elena Băsescu (PPE)  
(20 March 2014)**

*Subject:* EU accession prospects for Eastern European partners

Growing instability in Eastern Europe, particularly Ukraine, is now culminating in the annexation of part of a sovereign and independent state by the Russian Federation, which is also bringing pressure to bear on other countries, such as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, with the undeclared aim of drawing them away from Europe. However, the EU is currently offering these countries' an association agreement only, as opposed to a roadmap for possible accession.

In view of the most recent developments affecting our Eastern European partners, does the EU intend to offer the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia clear prospects of accession?

**Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission  
(10 July 2014)**

The EU is firmly committed to closer political association and economic integration with its Eastern Partners on the basis of Association Agreements (AAs), including the establishment of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs). As the AAs/DCFTAs are implemented in each country in coming years, Eastern Partners have the opportunity to tackle long-standing challenges with respect to the rule of law, transparency, and sector reforms. The EU is already providing significant financial and technical support that could facilitate further strengthening of EU relations with these countries. The governments of Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have expressed an ambition to join the EU one day, and a significant portion of each country's population favours a closer relationship with the EU. The November 2013 Eastern Partnership Summit declaration acknowledged the European aspirations and the European choice of some of its partners. The Summit declaration noted that respect for common values and implementation of Association Agreements would contribute to future progressive developments in the bilateral relationships. In addition, the Foreign Affairs Council stated in February that the Association Agreement does not constitute the final goal in EU-Ukraine cooperation.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-003456/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(21 marzo 2014)

**Oggetto:** Instabilità in Europa dell'est e rischi per i paesi baltici

L'aumento delle tensioni nell'Est Europa, in particolare con l'annessione della Crimea alla Federazione russa e il rischio latente di un conflitto armato tra Kiev e Mosca, sta suscitando forti timori per la sicurezza dell'UE, nello specifico nei paesi baltici, dove le minoranze russe sono più ampie che in altri Stati membri e la cui storia ricorda una dominazione cinquantennale da parte dell'Unione sovietica.

Alcuni esponenti politici europei hanno già cercato di attrarre l'attenzione delle istituzioni europee e della Nato sui timori delle tre repubbliche baltiche, anche se per ora l'attenzione sembra concentrata essenzialmente sulla penisola della Crimea.

In merito a questi appelli in difesa delle tre repubbliche baltiche, la Commissione:

1. Condivide i timori secondo cui uno schema simile a quello utilizzato in Crimea (aizzare la popolazione russofona) possa essere applicato anche nelle repubbliche baltiche?
2. In che modo ritiene che l'UE dovrebbe reagire nel caso in cui tale eventualità dovesse realizzarsi?
3. Sta valutando la possibilità di avviare un'azione di sostegno a norma dell'articolo 47, paragrafo 7, del TUE?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

(10 luglio 2014)

L'UE ha seguito sin dall'inizio questi sviluppi e ha adottato misure nei confronti di diverse persone ed entità, in Russia e in Ucraina, che compromettono o minacciano l'integrità territoriale, la sovranità e l'indipendenza dell'Ucraina. L'UE continuerà a valutare le relazioni con la Federazione russa alla luce degli sviluppi e ne trarrà le necessarie conclusioni.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003456/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(21 March 2014)

*Subject:* Instability in Eastern Europe and the risks for the Baltic States

The rising tensions in Eastern Europe, particularly with the annexation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation and the latent threat of armed conflict between Kiev and Moscow, are raising serious fears for the security of the EU, and more especially of the Baltic countries, which has larger Russian minorities than the other Member States and which experienced half a century of Russian domination.

Some European politicians have already tried to draw the attention of the EU institutions and NATO to the concerns of the three Baltic republics, even if for the time being that attention is centred mainly on the Crimean peninsula.

Can the Commission state, in response to these calls to protect the three Baltic republics:

1. whether it agrees with those who fear that a strategy similar to the one used in the Crimea (stirring up the Russian-speaking population) may also be implemented in the Baltic republics;
2. how it feels the EU should respond were this actually to happen;
3. whether it is considering the possibility of taking supportive action under Article 47(7) TEU?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(10 July 2014)

The EU has from the outset followed these developments and taken measures against a number of individuals and entities in Russia and Ukraine responsible for undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. It will keep assessing relations to the Russian Federation in the light of the developments and draw the necessary conclusions.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003475/14  
to the Commission  
Charles Tannock (ECR)  
(21 March 2014)**

*Subject:* Application of EU privacy law with regard to criminals

Just under a decade ago, a Midlands police force in the UK became a national laughing stock when, under advice from lawyers working for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), it refused to publish the photographs of two escaped convicts on the grounds that to do so would constitute a violation of their rights to privacy. It was left to the Attorney General to point out that this advice was erroneous. A report on legal secrecy in Austria in a recent edition of *Private Eye* observed drily that even 'Wanted' posters for criminals are routinely pixelated, whilst in the UK documentaries, news reports or Police Camera Action-type programmes involving high-speed car chases also frequently pixelate the faces of people committing criminal acts, even when convictions have been secured in the courts or where no criminal prosecution is pending. This would be understandable if the person were a suspect in an on-going court case, and UK courts sometimes protect the identity of criminals if certain circumstances, for example the age of the criminal, provide grounds for doing so. Restrictions designed to ensure a fair trial or, in special cases, afford protection to a criminal adjudged by the courts to be especially vulnerable should not, of course, be confused with the right to privacy; criminal acts are, of their nature, public offences against the community and can never be 'private' acts.

Can the Commission confirm its understanding that, under EU data protection and privacy laws, there is nothing which, of itself, can be used to prevent publication of the faces of criminals or which would require pixelation of audiovisual footage that shows the faces of people committing criminal offences?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission  
(14 July 2014)**

The decision whether or not to publish photographs or make available to the public other images of convicted persons or people committing criminal offences will depend on the situation of each case.

For example, the identity of convicted persons may be kept secret by way of a court anonymity order. Such was the situation in the case of the child cruelty case in the UK known initially as Baby P. In this case the court issued an anonymity order preventing the publication of the names of the convicted persons to protect the identity, and hence the privacy, of Baby Peter's four siblings. The convicted persons could also not be named initially because they were involved in another trial and there was a risk of prejudice. The anonymity order was lifted when the remaining children were being cared for and when the second trial was completed. The judge said the identities of those involved had to be released to maintain public confidence in the judicial system.

There is no EU legislation which specifically prevents publication of the faces of criminals or which would require pixelation of audiovisual footage that shows the faces of people committing criminal offences. The publication of photos of wanted criminals by the police constitutes processing of personal data. In cases of cross-border exchange of personal data between Member States' police and judicial authorities, the processing of such data needs to comply with the requirements of Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA. The Data Protection Directive for the police and the judiciary proposed by the Commission in January 2012 will apply to both domestic processing and cross-border transfers of personal data <sup>(1)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and the free movement of such data, COM(2012) 10.



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-003545/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)**

(24 marzo 2014)

Oggetto: Cooperazione UE — Stati terzi nelle missioni e operazioni PSDC

Già nel novembre 2013 il Consiglio Affari esteri aveva accolto positivamente il contributo di partner extra-europei alle missioni e operazioni nel quadro della PSDC e già in passato alcuni di questi paesi hanno partecipato a questo genere di missioni, come nel caso dell'Ucraina, che con una fregata ha preso parte alle operazioni della missione EUNAVFOR-Atalanta, o della Georgia, nella recente EUFOR CAR Bangui.

In merito a questa cooperazione, può la Commissione:

1. presentare una panoramica delle missioni e operazioni PESD/PSDC in cui l'UE ha collaborato con partner terzi;
2. chiarire se esiste una forma di istituzionalizzazione di questa partecipazione, nella forma di linee guida, programmi, comunicazioni, strategie o trattati bi — e multilaterali,
3. specificare quali sono le motivazioni principali (politiche e operative) che hanno spinto verso questa cooperazione e se gli Stati terzi partecipanti hanno fornito assistenza in campi (civili o militari) in cui l'UE presentava o presenta lacune ancora irrisolte?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

(15 luglio 2014)

La dimensione di partenariato della PSDC è stata sottolineata nelle conclusioni del Consiglio del novembre 2013 e in quelle del Consiglio europeo del dicembre 2013.

La cooperazione PSDC con i partner si inserisce pienamente nei contesti convenuti e rispetta il principio fondamentale dell'autonomia decisionale dell'UE.

Circa 45 Stati non appartenenti all'UE hanno preso parte a missioni e operazioni nell'ambito della politica estera e di sicurezza comune dell'UE. Nel 2003 quindici paesi terzi hanno partecipato alla missione di polizia dell'Unione europea in Bosnia-Erzegovina, la prima missione nell'ambito della PSDC. Da allora, i paesi terzi sono presenti in quasi tutte le operazioni e missioni della PSDC.

Vari sono gli esempi di cooperazione e attività di vantaggio reciproco perseguite unitamente alle missioni PSDC: il Canada ha contribuito economicamente a un progetto in materia di gestione delle risorse umane realizzato dall'EUTM Mali.

Nel 2014 vari paesi partner hanno offerto nuovi contributi alle missioni e alle operazioni della PSDC. L'Ucraina ha partecipato con la sua nave ammiraglia a EUNAVFOR Atalanta. La Georgia è diventata il secondo principale attore della missione EUFOR RCA, dispiegando una compagnia di fanteria leggera (156 soldati).

A partire dal 2004 l'UE ha introdotto l'accordo quadro di partecipazione per facilitare la rapida partecipazione a missioni e operazioni in ambito PSDC. Ad oggi quindici paesi hanno firmato l'accordo: Albania, Canada, Cile, ex Repubblica jugoslava di Macedonia, Georgia, Islanda, Repubblica di Moldova, Montenegro, Norvegia, Nuova Zelanda, Serbia, Repubblica di Corea, Turchia, Stati Uniti, Ucraina. Sono in procinto di essere firmati accordi quadro di cooperazione anche con l'Australia e la Bosnia-Erzegovina, mentre l'accordo con la Colombia è nella fase finale.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003545/14  
to the Commission**  
**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)**  
(24 March 2014)

*Subject:* EU cooperation with third countries in CSDP missions

In November 2013, the Foreign Affairs Council said that it welcomed the contribution of non-EU partners in CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy) missions and operations; some of those countries have indeed already participated in such missions, such as Ukraine, which sent a frigate to take part in the Eunavfor — Atalanta mission, or Georgia, which joined the recent EUFOR CAR Bangui mission.

With regard to this cooperation, can the Commission:

1. give an overview of the CSDP operations in which the EU has worked with third-country partners;
2. clarify whether this participation has been formalised in any way, in the shape of guidelines, programmes, communications, strategies or bi- and multilateral treaties;
3. specify what the main reasons (political and operational) are for this cooperation and whether the participating third countries have provided assistance in fields (civil or military) in which the EU had, or has, gaps or shortcomings that have not yet been remedied?

**Answer given by HR/VP Ashton on behalf of the Commission**  
(15 July 2014)

The Partnership dimension of CSDP was highlighted in both the conclusions of the Council in November 2013 and of the European Council in December 2013.

CSDP cooperation with partners stays fully within the existing agreed frameworks and respects the fundamental principle of EU decision making autonomy.

Approximately 45 non-EU states have participated in missions and operations under the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. In 2003, 15 third states participated in the EU Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. — the first CSDP mission. Since then, third states have been present in almost all CSDP operations and missions.

There are also various examples of mutually beneficial cooperation and activities pursued hand in hand with CSDP missions: e.g. Canada has financially contributed to a project in human resources management run by EUTM Mali.

In 2014, several partner countries offered new contributions to CSDP missions and operations. Ukraine participated with its flagship in Eunavfor Atalanta. Georgia has become the second largest contributor to EUFOR RCA, deploying one light infantry company (156 troops).

As of 2004, the EU has introduced the framework Participation Agreement (FPA) to facilitate speedy involvement in CSDP missions and operations. Fifteen countries have signed such agreements to date: Albania; Canada; Chile; former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Georgia; Iceland; Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Norway; New Zealand; Serbia; Republic of Korea; Turkey; United States; Ukraine. In addition to this FPAs are ready to be signed with Australia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, while the agreement with Colombia is in the final stages.

(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris P-003562/14**  
**adresată Comisiei (Vicepreședintelui/Înaltului Reprezentant)**  
**Corina Crețu (S&D)**  
(24 martie 2014)

*Subiect:* VP/HR — Reacția Uniunii Europene cu privire la situația din Transnistria

Lipsa unei reacții ferme și unitare a Uniunii Europene la gestul Federației Ruse de anexare a Crimeii transmise, în continuare, unde de șoc în întreaga lume. Mai mult decât atât, Rusia pare să fi rămas neintimidată de ceea ce mulți consideră a fi doar sancțiuni superficiale din partea Europei. Lipsită de solidaritatea de care ar fi nevoie într-un asemenea context și slăbită intern de atitudinile antieuropene ale partidelor radicale, Uniunea Europeană demonstrează că îi este încă dificil să dea un răspuns pe măsura provocărilor. La fel de periculoasă este, însă, și lipsa de reacție cu privire la riscurile la adresa securității din zona Transnistriei, asupra căreia oficialii NATO și-au exprimat deja îngrijorarea.

Ar fi un semn de profundă slăbiciune dacă Uniunea Europeană nu ar formula o strategie unitară nici cu privire la eventualele amenințări asupra integrității teritoriale a Republicii Moldova, stat unanim lăudat de instituțiile europene pentru progresele sale. Este, fără îndoială, nevoie urgentă de o strategie comună a statelor membre.

Ce măsuri are în vedere Înaltul Reprezentant pentru a preîntâmpina o situație total nedorită în imediata noastră vecinătate și pentru a demonstra, în același timp, forța și unitatea Uniunii Europene?

**Răspuns dat de Înaltul Reprezentant/doamna vicepreședinte Ashton în numele Comisiei**  
(14 iulie 2014)

Uniunea Europeană dă dovadă în prezent de o solidaritate deosebită cu Republica Moldova. La 15 mai 2014, a avut loc la Bruxelles o reuniune la nivel înalt fără precedent între UE și Republica Moldova, președintele Consiliului European a efectuat o vizită la Chișinău la 13 mai 2014, urmată de vizita președintelui Comisiei Europene la 12 iunie 2014. Uniunea Europeană și Republica Moldova și-au consolidat în mod semnificativ relațiile prin semnarea unui acord de asociere, incluzând o zonă de liber schimb aprofundată și cuprinzătoare, la 27 iunie 2014. Liberalizarea vizelor între Republica Moldova și zona Schengen a intrat în vigoare la 28 aprilie 2014. În plus, UE oferă Republicii Moldova un sprijin tehnic și financiar considerabil (peste 130 de milioane EUR în 2013), aceasta devenind astfel unul dintre cei mai importanți beneficiari ai ajutorului acordat de UE pe cap de locuitor. Recent, Uniunea Europeană a crescut contingentele tarifare scutite de taxe vamale acordate Republicii Moldova pentru vinuri și anumite fructe și legume, facilitând astfel exporturile esențiale ale Republicii Moldova către UE.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-003562/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

**Corina Crețu (S&D)**

(24 March 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — European Union response in view of the situation in Transnistria

The absence of a firm and united response from the European Union to the Russian Federation's annexation of Crimea is continuing to send a shockwave around the world. Furthermore, Russia appears not to have been intimidated by what many consider to be no more than superficial sanctions on the part of Europe. Lacking the solidarity called for by such a situation, and internally weakened by the anti-European attitudes of radical parties, the European Union is showing that it is still difficult for it to meet the challenges facing it. However, this failure to respond is equally dangerous in view of the risks to the security of the Transnistrian region, on which NATO officials have already expressed concern.

It would be a sign of profound weakness if the European Union were unable to draw up a united strategy on possible threats to the territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, a country whose progress has received unanimous praise from the European institutions. There can be no doubt as to the urgent need for the Member States to adopt a joint strategy.

What steps is the High Representative planning to take in order to avert a wholly undesirable situation in our immediate neighbourhood and at the same time demonstrate the European Union's strength and unity?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(14 July 2014)

The European Union is currently showing substantial solidarity with the Republic of Moldova. An unprecedented EU-Moldovan executive to executive meeting took place on 15 May 2014 in Brussels, the President of the European Council visited Chisinau on 13 May 2014 and the President of the European Commission on 12 June 2014. The EU and the Republic of Moldova significantly enhanced their relations by signing an Association Agreement including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area on 27 June 2014. Visa liberalisation between the Republic of Moldova and the Schengen zone took effect on 28 April 2014. Moreover, the EU is supporting the Republic of Moldova with considerable financial and technical support (over EUR 1 30 million in 2013), making it one of the largest EU aid recipient per capita. Only recently, has the European Union increased Moldovan tariff free quotas for wine and certain fruits and vegetables, thereby facilitating critical Moldovan exports to the EU.

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(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-003572/14**  
**au Conseil**  
**Franck Proust (PPE)**  
(24 mars 2014)

*Objet:* Défense commune

Les récents événements ont montré la faiblesse de la réponse européenne commune en matière de résolution de conflit. Depuis 1957, on parle de défense commune et, pourtant, rien n'a encore été fait. Une défense commune doit être envisagée par les États membres. L'Europe pourra alors être à même de répondre aux menaces grandissantes provenant des pays tiers ainsi que d'intervenir dans des conflits impliquant l'un de ses alliés.

1. Le Conseil est-il conscient de ce besoin de politique commune de défense?
2. Quelles sont les avancées en cette matière depuis que le premier projet de défense commune a été mis sur la table?

**Réponse**  
(8 juillet 2014)

Pour faire suite aux conclusions du Conseil européen de décembre 2012, par lesquelles il demandait de renforcer la politique de sécurité et de défense commune (PSDC) de l'UE, la Commission européenne, la Haute Représentante, l'Agence européenne de défense et les États membres se sont attelés résolument à cette tâche. Cela a permis au Conseil européen d'adopter, en décembre dernier, d'importantes conclusions sur la PSDC, selon lesquelles il faut en priorité:

- augmenter l'efficacité, la visibilité et l'impact de la PSDC. Les nombreuses missions et opérations civiles et militaires menées dans le monde entier témoignent concrètement de l'attachement de l'Union à la paix et la sécurité internationales. L'Union déploie aujourd'hui plus de 7 000 personnes affectées à 12 missions civiles et 4 opérations militaires. Cela s'inscrit dans l'approche globale et sans équivalent de l'UE pour la gestion des crises. Le travail est en cours afin, notamment, de coopérer davantage avec les partenaires, d'améliorer les capacités de réaction rapide, de faire face aux nouveaux défis en matière de sécurité (tels que la sécurité maritime, la gestion des frontières, les défis de la cybersécurité);
- accroître le développement des capacités, notamment par une coopération renforcée entre les États membres. Des projets concrets sont en cours d'élaboration dans des domaines stratégiques (tels que les systèmes d'aéronefs télépilotés (RPAS), le ravitaillement en vol, les télécommunications par satellite, les cyber-projets);
- renforcer l'industrie européenne de la défense, ce qui est indispensable pour développer et maintenir les capacités de défense. À cet égard, on travaille actuellement à la mise en œuvre d'un certain nombre des actions proposées par la Commission européenne dans sa communication de 2013 sur le secteur de la défense et de la sécurité (s'agissant entre autres des petites et moyennes entreprises, de la recherche, de la certification et de la normalisation et de la sécurité d'approvisionnement).

Le Conseil européen évaluera en juin 2015 les progrès concrets accomplis sur toutes ces questions et fournira de nouvelles orientations.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003572/14  
to the Council**

**Franck Proust (PPE)**

(24 March 2014)

*Subject:* Common defence

Recent events have highlighted the weakness of Europe's joint response in the field of conflict resolution. Common defence has been under discussion since 1957, but nothing has been done. The Member States should give consideration to common defence. Europe would then be in a better position to respond to the growing threats from third countries and intervene in conflicts involving one of its allies.

1. Is the Council aware of this need for a common defence policy?
2. What progress has been made since the first common defence proposal was put forward?

**Reply**

(8 July 2014)

In response to the December 2012 European Council conclusions calling for a stronger EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), important work has been undertaken by the European Commission, the High Representative, the European Defence Agency and the Member States. This led to the endorsement last December by the European Council of substantial conclusions on CSDP. Priority actions cover:

- increasing the effectiveness, visibility and impact of CSDP. The numerous civilian and military missions and operations throughout the world are a tangible expression of the Union's commitment to international peace and security. The EU today deploys more than 7 000 staff in 12 civilian missions and four military operations. This is part of the EU's unique Comprehensive Approach to crisis management. Work is under way to, *inter alia*, develop further cooperation with partners, improve rapid response capabilities, address new security challenges (such as maritime, border management, cyber challenges)
- enhancing the development of capabilities, notably through increased cooperation amongst Member States. Concrete projects are being developed, in key areas (such as remotely piloted air systems (RPAS), air-to-air refuelling, satellite communications, cyber projects)
- strengthening Europe's defence industry, which is needed to develop and sustain defence capabilities. In that regard, work is under way to implement a number of the actions proposed by the European Commission in its 2013 Communication on the security and defence sector (concerning, *inter alia*, small and medium enterprises, research, certification and standardisation, security of supply).

The European Council will assess concrete progress on all issues in June 2015 and provide further guidance.

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(Ελληνική έκδοση)

**Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-003628/14**  
**προς την Επιτροπή**  
**Antígoni Papadopoulou (S&D)**  
(25 Μαρτίου 2014)

**Θέμα:** Μνημόνια και τρέχουσες επείγουσες ανάγκες

Με δεδομένο πως λόγω της οικονομικής κρίσης και των συνεπειών της στις χώρες των μνημονίων υπάρχει ανάγκη:

- για ταχεία διόρθωση του δανειοδοτικού συστήματος, ιδίως για τις ΜΜΕ·
- για δημιουργία ευνοϊκών όρων για τις επιχειρήσεις και ιδιαίτερα των ΜΜΕ, ώστε να μπορούν να αναπτύξουν μακροπρόθεσμα και με βιώσιμο τρόπο τις επιχειρηματικές τους δραστηριότητες·
- για βέλτιστη χρήση των ευκαιριών που προσφέρουν τα διαρθρωτικά ταμεία της ΕΕ, ιδίως το ΕΚΤ·
- για μια πραγματική πολιτική απασχόλησης με ενεργές πολιτικές για την αγορά εργασίας·
- ποιοτικών και ευρωπαϊκών δημόσιων υπηρεσιών απασχόλησης, καθώς και μιας πολιτικής αύξησης των μισθών·
- επιτυχούς εφαρμογής μιας ευρωπαϊκής εγγύησης απασχόλησης για τους νέους·
- εξασφάλισης ενός δίκαιου διανεμητικού αντίκτυπου· και
- ενός προγράμματος για τις οικογένειες χωρίς εργαζόμενα μέλη,

ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

Τι προτίθεται να πράξει για να αντιμετωπίσει την καθεμιά από τις επείγουσες πιο πάνω ανάγκες και πώς;

**Απάντηση του κ. Kallas εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής**  
(15 Ιουλίου 2014)

Όσον αφορά τις ΜΜΕ, λαμβάνονται ειδικά μέτρα σε επίπεδο ΕΕ για να διευκολυνθεί η πρόσβασή τους σε χρηματοδότηση. Με την υποστήριξη των ευρωπαϊκών διαρθρωτικών και επενδυτικών ταμείων, το ποσό της χρηματοδότησης για τις ΜΜΕ αναμένεται να διπλασιασθεί, από 70 σε 140 δισ. ευρώ, για την περίοδο 2014-2020. Η διαθέσιμη χρηματοδότηση σε επίπεδο ΕΕ για μέσα χρηματοδότησης που βασίζονται σε μόχλευση θα αυξηθεί επίσης σημαντικά, σε περίπου 4 δισ. ευρώ. Επιπλέον, η Επιτροπή και η ΕΤΕπ καταβάλλουν προσπάθειες για να επεκταθούν τα κοινά μέσα χρηματοδότησης με επιμερισμό του κινδύνου, με στόχο τη μόχλευση επενδύσεων στις ΜΜΕ από τον ιδιωτικό τομέα και τις κεφαλαιαγορές.

Η βελτίωση του επιχειρηματικού περιβάλλοντος παραμένει επίσης πρωταρχικός στόχος στο θεματολόγιο της Επιτροπής. Εκτός από τη μείωση του διοικητικού φόρτου για τις ΜΜΕ στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος βελτίωσης της καταλληλότητας και της αποδοτικότητας του κανονιστικού πλαισίου, η Επιτροπή θα εγκρίνει δέσμη μέτρων για την κυκλική οικονομία, που περιλαμβάνει πράσινο σχέδιο δράσης για τις ΜΜΕ με δράσεις ενίσχυσης της πράσινης επιχειρηματικότητας για τις επιχειρήσεις του μέλλοντος.

Η Επιτροπή συνεργάζεται με τα κράτη μέλη που επωφελούνται από τη χρηματοδοτική συνδρομή, ώστε να διασφαλιστεί ότι το βάρος της προσαρμογής κατανέμεται κατά τον πλέον δίκαιο τρόπο. Η Επιτροπή δεσμεύεται πλήρως να στηρίζει τις χώρες κατά την εφαρμογή των εθνικών σχεδίων υλοποίησης των εγγυήσεων για τη νεολαία <sup>(1)</sup>.

Στο πλαίσιο της αντιμετώπισης της χρηματοπιστωτικής κρίσης, τα θεσμικά όργανα της ΕΕ συμφώνησαν σε μια δέσμη μέτρων για να βελτιωθεί η ροή της χρηματοδότησης της ΕΕ, ιδίως στις χώρες που υπάγονται σε πρόγραμμα, η οποία περιλαμβάνει την αύξηση της προχρηματοδότησης, την απλούστευση των διοικητικών διαδικασιών, τη μείωση της εθνικής συγχρηματοδότησης και την αναθεώρηση του προγράμματος με έμφαση στην ανεργία των νέων και στις ΜΜΕ. Τα μέτρα αυτά έχουν συμβάλει επιτυχώς στην επίτευξη της απορρόφησης κονδυλίων της ΕΕ στις χώρες που υπάγονται σε πρόγραμμα.

<sup>(1)</sup> Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με μέτρα της ΕΕ για την αντιμετώπιση της ανεργίας των νέων [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-14-338\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-338_en.htm?locale=en)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003628/14**  
**to the Commission**  
**Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)**  
(25 March 2014)

*Subject:* The Memoranda and current urgent needs

Given that, because of the economic crisis and its consequences for euro area programme countries, it is necessary:

- rapidly to adjust the lending system, especially for SMEs;
- to create favourable conditions for businesses, especially SMEs, to enable them to develop their entrepreneurial activities viably in the long-term;
- to make optimal use of the opportunities offered by the EU structural funds, notably the ESF;
- to develop a genuine employment policy with active labour market policies;
- to create quality European public employment services and a policy of wage increases;
- to successfully implement a European employment guarantee for young people;
- to ensure a fair redistributive impact; and
- to launch a programme for families without breadwinners;

Will the Commission say:

What does it intend to do to address each of the urgent needs set out above and how will it go about this task?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission**  
(15 July 2014)

For SMEs, specific measures are being taken at EU level to facilitate access to finance. With the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds, the amount of funding for SMEs should double from EUR 70 to 140 billion for the period 2014-2020. EU-level funding available for leverage-based financial instruments will also increase significantly to some EUR 4 billion. Moreover, the Commission and the EIB are working to expand joint risk-sharing financial instruments to leverage private sector and capital market investments in SMEs.

Improving the business environment is also very high on the Commission's agenda. Apart from reducing administrative burden for SMEs as part of its Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme, the Commission will adopt a circular economy package, which includes a Green action plan for SMEs with actions to support green entrepreneurship for the companies of the future.

The Commission works with the Member States benefiting from the financial assistance to ensure that the adjustment burden is shared in the most equitable way possible. The Commission is fully committed to support countries in the implementation of their National Youth Guarantee plans <sup>(1)</sup>.

As part of their response to the financial crisis, the EU institutions agreed to a package of measures to improve the flow of EU financing, especially in programme Countries, including higher pre-financing, simplification of administrative procedures, reduction of national co-financing, re-programming a focusing on youth unemployment and SMEs. These measures have been successful in accelerating EU funds absorption in programme countries.

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<sup>(1)</sup> For more information on EU measures to tackle Youth see unemployment [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-14-338\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-338_en.htm?locale=en)



*(Versione italiana)*

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-003810/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)**

*(27 marzo 2014)*

**Oggetto:** Forniture di apparecchiature non letali statunitensi ai ribelli siriani

Il Dipartimento di Stato americano sta organizzando un canale di assistenza diretto alle forze ribelli siriane per un valore di circa 10 milioni di dollari. Si tratta di strumentazione non letale, come ad esempio ambulanze, strumentazione per la comunicazione e mezzi di trasporto. Questi aiuti fanno parte di un pacchetto di 80 milioni di dollari deciso nel 2012, ma di recente bloccato a causa dell'insicurezza che regna nel paese e dell'impossibilità di garantire canali sicuri per le forniture. Il sostegno americano ha potuto riprendere solo dopo che le forze di opposizione sono state in grado di aprire un corridoio tra il confine turco e Aleppo.

Mentre a livello internazionale la diplomazia non sembra in grado di porre fine al conflitto e gli Stati Uniti hanno ripreso le proprie forniture verso le forze di opposizione al regime di Assad, può la Commissione riferire quali sono i principali strumenti di sostegno che l'UE sta fornendo, al fine di garantire una rapida soluzione del conflitto e il rispetto dei diritti fondamentali e del diritto umanitario internazionale?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

*(10 luglio 2014)*

L'Unione europea (Commissione e Stati membri) ha già fornito 2,8 miliardi di euro in aiuti umanitari e allo sviluppo per azioni in Siria e nei paesi confinanti in risposta alla crisi (di cui 1,3 miliardi stanziati sul bilancio dell'UE) ed è quindi il maggior donatore in questa crisi. Il sostegno fornito mira ad aiutare la popolazione a far fronte agli effetti della crisi sia a breve termine (assistenza umanitaria di soccorso) sia nel lungo periodo (sviluppo delle capacità delle organizzazioni siriane della società civile, sostegno all'istruzione e alla sussistenza, ecc.). In questo contesto, l'UE si è valsa di tutti i canali esistenti per far giungere l'assistenza alle popolazioni che ne hanno bisogno. In particolare, l'UE ha impegnato 10 milioni di euro per fornire assistenza non umanitaria ai residenti di zone del nord della Siria difficili da raggiungere e controllate dall'opposizione, nonché per sostenere le strutture recentemente costituite dall'opposizione siriana migliorandone i processi di erogazione dei servizi.

L'UE collabora inoltre con l'ONU e con altri soggetti internazionali per migliorare l'accesso dell'assistenza umanitaria in Siria. Si è più volte rivolta direttamente alle autorità siriane, ai sostenitori internazionali e regionali del regime e alle forze di opposizione per chiedere di agevolare il transito dei convogli umanitari attraverso le linee di conflitto e le frontiere. L'UE ha anche dato un sostegno attivo all'adozione, avvenuta all'unanimità, della risoluzione n. 2139 del Consiglio di sicurezza dell'ONU, che invita a porre in atto misure volte a migliorare la situazione umanitaria in loco e prevede un meccanismo mensile per controllare i progressi compiuti. L'UE sosterrà tutte le misure volte a garantire la piena attuazione della risoluzione n. 2139 del Consiglio di sicurezza.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003810/14  
to the Commission  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)  
(27 March 2014)**

*Subject:* US deliveries of nonlethal aid to Syrian rebels

The US State Department is arranging to provide Syrian rebel forces with direct aid to the value of some ten million US dollars. This aid will take the form of nonlethal supplies, such as ambulances, communications equipment and means of transport, and forms part of an 80-million-dollar package agreed in 2012 but recently blocked because of prevailing insecurity in the country and the impossibility of guaranteeing secure delivery channels. US support is being resumed now that the opposition forces have been able to open a corridor between the Turkish border and Aleppo.

Since international diplomacy seems incapable of putting an end to the conflict, and since the US has resumed deliveries to the forces opposing Assad's regime, can the Commission provide information on the main types of support the EU is providing to ensure a rapid solution to the conflict and to guarantee respect of fundamental rights and of international humanitarian law?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission  
(10 July 2014)**

The EU (Commission and Member States) has provided so far EUR 2.8 billion in humanitarian and development assistance for actions in Syria and in neighbouring countries in response to the crisis (of which 1.3 billion through the EU budget), making the EU the biggest donor in this crisis. This supports aims at helping the affected population coping with the effects of the crisis, both in the short term (humanitarian life-saving assistance) and in the longer term (capacity-building of Syrian Civil society Organisation, support to Education and livelihoods, etc...). Within this context, the EU has used all existing channels of assistance to reach the population in need. The EU has notably allocated EUR 10 million to the delivery of non-humanitarian assistance to the population in Syria living in hard-to-reach areas in Northern Syria controlled by the opposition and support to the recently formed Syrian opposition structures through the improvement of service delivery processes.

The EU is also working with the UN and other international partners on enabling humanitarian access in Syria. The EU has repeatedly reached out directly to the Syrian authorities as well as to international and regional supporters of the regime and the opposition forces to facilitate cross-line and cross-border entry for humanitarian convoys. The EU has also actively supported a successful adoption, on a unanimous vote, of the UNSC resolution 2139, which calls for all measures to improve the humanitarian situation on the ground and envisions a monthly progress review mechanism. The EU will support all measures leading to the full implementation of UNSC resolution 2139.

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(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-003835/14**  
**à la Commission**  
**Marc Tarabella (S&D)**  
(27 mars 2014)

*Objet:* Croissance bleue

L'exécutif européen estime que les ressources océaniques pourraient créer environ 5,4 millions d'emplois à l'intérieur de l'Union européenne et quelq ue 500 milliards de chiffre d'affaires annuel.

Alors que nous avons des difficultés à sortir de la récession et que les ressources terrestres s'épuisent, il est logique de nous tourner vers les océans.

Des études européennes montrent que les océans pourraient combler les trois quarts des besoins en énergie de l'Union d'ici 2030. Le bouquet énergétique maritime serait constitué de l'exploitation d'énergies provenant de différentes sources: les vagues (énergie houlomotrice), les marées (énergie marémotrice), la conversion des différences de température (énergie thermique maritime) et les gradients de salinité (énergie osmotique).

La Commission a-t-elle également mesuré avec précision les éventuels dommages à l'environnement? Si oui, quels sont-ils?

**Réponse donnée par Mme Damanaki au nom de la Commission**  
(16 juillet 2014)

Les premières études à ce sujet citées dans la littérature scientifique <sup>(1)</sup> montrent que les incidences sur l'environnement des installations exploitant l'énergie océanique sont limitées. Dans certains cas, les installations utilisant des sources d'énergie renouvelables

peuvent en réalité se révéler bénéfiques pour certains écosystèmes: les parcs d'éoliennes en mer pourraient par exemple fournir un habitat pour des organismes vivant dans les profondeurs.

Il sera possible de réaliser une évaluation plus complète lorsqu'un plus grand nombre d'installations seront opérationnelles et que le bilan de la surveillance des effets sur l'environnement sera disponible. Le manque d'informations sur l'environnement marin est un problème important, d'autant plus que la surface des fonds marins reste encore relativement peu explorée, contrairement à la surface terrestre émergée. C'est pourquoi la Commission a engagé des travaux dans le cadre de l'initiative «Connaissance du milieu marin 2020» visant à assurer un accès facile et gratuit aux données sur le milieu marin et leur interopérabilité: une carte multirésolution de l'ensemble des fonds marins et de la colonne d'eau supérieure des eaux européennes sera réalisée d'ici 2020. En outre, le programme Horizon 2020 est un instrument efficace pour encourager la commercialisation de technologies d'exploitation de l'énergie océanique. Selon les estimations, entre 10 500 et 26 500 emplois permanents et jusqu'à 14 000 emplois temporaires pourraient être créés dans ce secteur d'ici à 2035 <sup>(2)</sup>.

Les incidences sur l'environnement de l'énergie océanique sont dûment prises en considération dans le cadre des travaux du Forum sur l'énergie océanique consacrés aux aspects environnementaux.

La directive relative à la planification de l'espace maritime et la directive-cadre «stratégie pour le milieu marin» <sup>(3)</sup> pourraient s'appliquer de manière pertinente dans le domaine du développement et de l'exploitation des installations utilisant l'énergie océanique. La première impose aux États membres de prendre en compte les interactions terre-mer, et la seconde fait obligation aux États membres d'atteindre un «bon état écologique», défini grâce à un ensemble de descripteurs tels que la biodiversité, les niveaux d'introduction d'énergie, y compris de sources sonores sous-marines, dans le milieu marin, et l'intégrité des fonds marins, d'ici 2020.

<sup>(1)</sup> Voir Nature 508, 302-304 du 17 avril 2014.

<sup>(2)</sup> Hypothèses basses fondées sur l'analyse d'impact accompagnant la communication COM(2014)8 final et le document de travail des services de la Commission SWD (2014) 13 final, pp. 33 et 34.

<sup>(3)</sup> 2008/56/CE.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003835/14  
to the Commission  
Marc Tarabella (S&D)  
(27 March 2014)**

*Subject:* Blue growth

The European executive believes that ocean resources could create around 5.4 million jobs within the European Union, and an annual turnover of some 500 billion.

Given that we are experiencing difficulties in emerging from the recession, and that land-based resources are running out, it makes sense to turn our attention to the oceans.

European studies show that the oceans could supply three quarters of EU energy needs by 2030. The maritime energy mix would involve exploiting energies from various sources: waves (wave energy), tides (tidal energy), converting temperature differences (ocean thermal energy conversion), and salinity gradients (osmotic energy).

Has the Commission made a careful assessment of possible instances of harm to the environment? If it has, what are they?

**Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission  
(16 July 2014)**

Initial studies reported in scientific literature <sup>(1)</sup> indicate that the environmental impacts of ocean energy installations are limited. In some cases renewable energy installations may actually benefit ecosystems — for instance the bases of wind platforms could provide habitats for bottom-dwelling organisms.

A full assessment will become possible as larger commercial arrays come on stream and the results of environmental monitoring become available. The lack of information about the marine environment is an important problem, especially given that the seabed remains relatively unexplored compared to land. This is why the Commission has started work under Marine Knowledge 2020 that aims to ensure that marine data is interoperable, easily and freely accessible: a multi-resolution map of the entire seabed and overlying water column of European waters is to be in place by 2020. Furthermore, Horizon 2020 is a powerful tool that can drive the commercialisation of ocean energy technologies. Estimates predict that the sector could create around 10 500-26 500 permanent jobs and up to 14 000 temporary jobs by 2035 <sup>(2)</sup>.

The environmental impact of ocean energy is closely looked at under the environmental work stream under the Ocean Energy Forum.

The Marine Spatial Planning Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive <sup>(3)</sup> may be relevant for the development and operation of ocean energy installations. The former requires Member States to take into account land-sea interactions, while the latter requires Member States to achieve 'Good Environmental Status' by 2020, across a number of descriptors such as biodiversity, underwater energy/noise and seafloor integrity.

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<sup>(1)</sup> For example Nature 508, 302-304 of 17.4.2014.

<sup>(2)</sup> Conservative estimates based on the Commission's impact assessment accompanying COM(2014) 8 final, SWD(2014) 13 final, pages 33 and 34.

<sup>(3)</sup> 2008/56/EC.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-003875/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(28 marzo 2014)

**Oggetto:** Sviluppo e diffusione di droni sottomarini

Nonostante quando si parla di droni ci si riferisca per lo più a veicoli aerei a comando remoto, in realtà i robot senza pilota a bordo stanno conoscendo un certo successo anche nell'ambito sottomarino. Questi robot vengono utilizzati per numerosi scopi — di natura scientifica, meteorologica, umanitaria o militare. Riuscendo a muoversi anche ad altissime profondità, difficilmente raggiungibili con altri mezzi, i droni subacquei sono in grado di raccogliere informazioni capaci di rendere più precise le previsioni relative a eventi naturali come gli uragani, spesso influenzati dalla temperatura degli oceani a grandi profondità, o di studiare l'inquinamento delle acque, la trasformazione della flora marina o i grandi spostamenti migratori della fauna subacquea. Tali droni sottomarini potrebbero essere utilizzati anche a scopi di monitoraggio di attività umane, come ad esempio per sondare le acque alla ricerca di barconi di immigrati, o per monitorare in sicurezza le attività militari di altri Stati.

In merito all'uso di questi droni, può la Commissione specificare se — nel contesto delle azioni volte a creare una strategia di sicurezza marittima dell'UE così come descritta dal Parlamento europeo e avvalorata dalle conclusioni del Consiglio europeo sulla difesa del dicembre 2013 — intende promuovere lo sviluppo di questi strumenti? Sono essi già stati utilizzati dalle forze armate europee impegnate in missioni PSDC, come ad esempio nella missione EUNAVFOR Atalanta?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

(15 luglio 2014)

La strategia di sicurezza marittima dell'UE, adottata il 24 giugno 2014, non fa espressa menzione dei droni subacquei, né questi sono stati mai utilizzati dalle forze armate europee coinvolte nelle missioni PESD come, ad esempio, l'operazione EUNAVFOR Atalanta.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003875/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(28 March 2014)

*Subject:* Development and more widespread use of underwater drones

When we talk about drones, we are normally referring to remote-controlled aircraft. However, unmanned craft are also being used increasingly frequently under water, for a wide variety of purposes — scientific, meteorological, humanitarian and military. Because they can operate at great depths which are otherwise difficult to reach, underwater drones can gather information which makes it possible to forecast with greater accuracy natural events, such as hurricanes, which can be triggered by water temperatures at lower ocean depths, or to study pollution, changes to marine flora or migratory movements of underwater fauna. Underwater drones could also be used to monitor human activities, such as movements of small boats carrying illegal immigrants, or to eavesdrop in complete safety on the military activities of other states.

Can the Commission say whether — in the context of moves to establish an EU maritime security strategy, as outlined by Parliament and approved by the Council of Defence Ministers in the conclusions of its December 2013 meeting — it intends to encourage the development of underwater drones? Have such drones already been used by European armed forces involved in ESDP missions, such as Eunavfor Atalanta?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(15 July 2014)

Underwater drones are not mentioned in the EU Maritime Security Strategy adopted on 24 June 2014. Neither have they been used by European armed forces involved in ESDP missions, such as Eunavfor Atalanta.

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(Ελληνική έκδοση)

**Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-003960/14**  
**προς την Επιτροπή**  
**Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**  
(31 Μαρτίου 2014)

Θέμα: Έλεγχος λειτουργίας ελληνικών τελωνείων

Σύμφωνα με δημοσιεύματα, μια από τις εκκρεμότητες στις διαπραγματεύσεις της ελληνικής κυβέρνησης με την Τρόικα (Επιτροπή, ΔΝΤ και ΕΚΤ) είναι «ο έλεγχος των ελληνικών τελωνείων και των ηλεκτρονικών εφαρμογών παρακολούθησης της κίνησης και των πληρωμών εκτελωνισμού των εμπορευμάτων, με στόχο τον περιορισμό της φοροδιαφυγής, της διαφθοράς και του λαθρεμπορίου».

Με δεδομένα τα παραπάνω, ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Μπορεί να διευκρινίσει και να σχολιάσει τις ανωτέρω πληροφορίες;
2. Υπάρχει χρονοδιάγραμμα εφαρμογής των προαναφερθεισών ρυθμίσεων; Χρηματοδοτούνται τα εν λόγω μέτρα από τα κοινοτικά ταμεία και, αν ναι, από ποια, και με τι ποσά;

**Απάντηση του κ. Kallas εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής**  
(9 Ιουλίου 2014)

Αναλυτική περιγραφή της προόδου που έχει σημειωθεί και των επόμενων βημάτων που συμφωνήθηκαν στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος προσαρμογής για την Ελλάδα στον τομέα των τελωνείων και της διευκόλυνσης των εμπορικών συναλλαγών, καθώς και χρονοδιάγραμμα για την εφαρμογή, διατίθενται στην επικαιροποιημένη τεκμηρίωση του προγράμματος, η οποία περιλαμβάνεται στην έκθεση συμμόρφωσης που δημοσιεύθηκε μετά την ολοκλήρωση της 4ης αναθεώρησης του προγράμματος <sup>(1)</sup>.

Όσον αφορά τη δυνατότητα παροχής στήριξης από την ΕΕ για τις τελωνειακές διαδικασίες, στο έγγραφο θέσης των υπηρεσιών της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής σχετικά με την ανάπτυξη συμφωνίας εταιρικής σχέσης και προγραμμάτων στην Ελλάδα (Νοέμβριος 2012) <sup>(2)</sup> επισημαίνεται η ανάγκη εκσυγχρονισμού και αποτελεσματικής λειτουργίας της ελληνικής τελωνειακής διοίκησης. Για τον σκοπό αυτόν, μπορεί να παρασχεθεί στήριξη από τα Ευρωπαϊκά Διαρθρωτικά και Επενδυτικά Ταμεία (ΕΔΕΤ) για τις διαδικασίες που αφορούν τα τελωνεία. Όπως και κάθε άλλη διαδικασία, ωστόσο, οι διαδικασίες αυτές θα πρέπει να αποτελούν μέρος στρατηγικής και να εμπίπτουν στο πεδίο εφαρμογής ενός θεματικού στόχου και μιας από τις επενδυτικές προτεραιότητες συγκεκριμένου προγράμματος.

Η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή παρέχει ήδη τεχνική βοήθεια (π.χ. υποστήριξη από εμπειρογνώμονες άλλων κρατών μελών και από αποστολές εμπειρογνομόνων της ΓΔ ΤΑΧΥΔ, επιμορφωτικά σεμινάρια) στον τομέα των τελωνείων και της φορολογίας, μέσω των προγραμμάτων Τελωνεία 2020 και Fiscalis 2020. Στο πλαίσιο και των δύο προγραμμάτων, έχουν εκπονηθεί ειδικά σχέδια για την Ελλάδα, που μπορούν να χρησιμοποιηθούν για τη στήριξη της υλοποίησης των μεταρρυθμίσεων στον τομέα των τελωνείων ή της φορολογίας (συμπεριλαμβανομένης της εφαρμογής των ηλεκτρονικών τελωνείων). Ο οικονομικός αντίκτυπος αυτών των σχεδίων θα εξαρτηθεί από τις ανάγκες που θα εντοπιστούν από την αρμόδια ομάδα εργασίας για την ελληνική τελωνειακή μεταρρύθμιση, η οποία αποτελείται από εκπροσώπους της ελληνικής τελωνειακής διοίκησης, από τον Έλληνα Γενικό Γραμματέα Δημοσίων Εσόδων και από την Ομάδα Δράσης για την Ελλάδα.

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/assistance\\_eu\\_ms/greek\\_loan\\_facility/index\\_el.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/assistance_eu_ms/greek_loan_facility/index_el.htm)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/pdf/partnership/gr\\_position\\_paper.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/pdf/partnership/gr_position_paper.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003960/14  
to the Commission**

**Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**

(31 March 2014)

*Subject:* Control of Greek customs operations

It has been reported that one of the outstanding issues in the negotiations between the Greek Government and the Troika (the Commission, the IMF and the ECB) is 'control of Greek customs and electronic monitoring applications in respect of the movement of goods and clearance payments for goods aimed at curbing tax evasion, corruption and smuggling.'

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Can it clarify and comment on the above information?
2. Is there a timetable for implementation of the above arrangements? Are they paid for by EU funds? If so, which funds and by what amount?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission**

(9 July 2014)

A detailed account of the progress made and the next steps agreed in the framework of the adjustment programme for Greece in the field of customs and trade facilitation, including a timetable for implementation, is available in the updated programme documentation contained in the compliance report published following the conclusion of the 4th review of the programme <sup>(1)</sup>.

As regards the possibility of EU support of operations relating to customs, the Position Paper of the European Commission services on the development of Partnership Agreement and programmes in Greece (November 2012) <sup>(2)</sup> identifies the need for modernisation and efficient operation of the Greek customs administration. To this end, operations relating to customs can be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). As any other operation, however, they must be part of a strategy and fall within scope of a thematic objective and of one of the investment priorities of a given programme.

The European Commission is already providing technical assistance (e.g. support from experts from other MS and DG TAXUD expert missions, training seminars) in the field of customs and taxation through the Customs 2020 and Fiscalis 2020 programmes. Under both programmes, specific projects for Greece have been created that can be used to support the implementation of reforms in the area of customs or taxation (including the application of electronic customs). The financial impact of these projects will be dependent on the needs to be identified by the working group competent for the Greek Customs Reform, which consists of representatives from the Greek Customs Administration, from the Greek Secretary General for Public Revenue and from the Task Force for Greece.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/assistance\\_eu\\_ms/greek\\_loan\\_facility/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/assistance_eu_ms/greek_loan_facility/index_en.htm)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/pdf/partnership/gr\\_position\\_paper.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/pdf/partnership/gr_position_paper.pdf)



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-003995/14  
alla Commissione  
Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)  
(31 marzo 2014)**

Oggetto: Il 2013 orribile dei diritti umani in Cina

Il rapporto stilato da «Chinese Human Rights Defenders» per l'anno 2013 lascia poca speranza per il futuro dei diritti umani in Cina: se da un lato, ad esempio, il governo annunciava l'abolizione dei laogai, i lager per il lavoro forzato, dall'altro aumentava i centri di detenzione illegali e clandestini nelle periferie delle città, a cui destinava i prigionieri. Quasi 250 attivisti per i diritti umani sono stati arrestati e si è triplicato il numero delle migliaia di persone scomparse senza motivo, di cui nessuno sa nulla. Al tempo stesso rimangono elevate, insieme all'aumento del capitalismo di stato, anche le censure alla libertà di espressione, ai blog, ai social network, a internet e alle espressioni culturali non autorizzate dal partito.

La Commissione:

1. ha altri dati di supporto sulla situazione dei diritti civili in Cina?
2. Può specificare se è a conoscenza di cittadini degli Stati membri detenuti nei laogai, nei centri di detenzione clandestina o di cui non si hanno più tracce?
3. Può smentire o confermare le voci secondo cui starebbe tastando il terreno per un negoziato di libero scambio con la Repubblica Popolare Cinese?
4. Non ritiene di dovere considerare la drammatica situazione dei diritti umani in Cina nei futuri rapporti con il governo della RPC?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione  
(10 luglio 2014)**

L'UE segue costantemente la situazione dei diritti umani in Cina, anche attraverso la sua delegazione a Pechino. Nonostante la mancanza di trasparenza del sistema penitenziario, giuridico e di sicurezza, l'UE è consapevole dei diversi problemi incontrati dai difensori dei diritti umani e dai cittadini cinesi che lottano per i loro diritti. La situazione è regolarmente evocata dall'Unione europea nelle dichiarazioni pubbliche e attraverso contatti bilaterali. Attualmente vi sono 58 cittadini dell'UE nelle carceri cinesi e circa 26 in detenzione amministrativa ed extragiudiziale di altro genere.

L'UE non sta negoziando un accordo di libero scambio con la Cina. Al vertice di novembre 2013, l'UE e la Cina hanno avviato i negoziati per un accordo bilaterale sugli investimenti. Finora hanno avuto luogo tre cicli di negoziati.

Il dialogo sui diritti umani è parte integrante dei rapporti dell'UE con la Cina, come confermato dal programma strategico di cooperazione UE-Cina per il 2020, adottato nel 2013 in occasione del vertice UE-Cina e che prevede un approfondimento degli scambi in materia di diritti umani a livello bilaterale e internazionale sulla base della parità e del rispetto reciproco

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003995/14  
to the Commission**

**Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)**

(31 March 2014)

*Subject:* 2013 — annus horribilis for human rights in China

The report drawn up by 'Chinese Human Rights Defenders' for 2013 leaves little hope for the future of human rights in China: although the government announced the abolition of 'laogai' or forced labour camps, there was an increase in the number of illegal, clandestine detention centres on the outskirts of towns, to which prisoners were being sent. Nearly 250 human rights activists were arrested, and there was a three-fold rise in the thousands of people who disappeared without explanation, whose fate is unknown. Together with the increase in state capitalism, there continues to be heavy censoring of freedom of expression, blogs, social networks, the Internet and forms of cultural expression not authorised by the party.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it have any other figures concerning the civil rights situation in China?
2. Can it say whether it is aware of any citizens of Member States being held in laogai or clandestine detention centres or who are missing without trace?
3. Can it deny or confirm the rumours that it is testing the ground for free trade negotiations with the People's Republic of China?
4. Does it not think it should take account of the dramatic human rights situation in China in any future relations with the government of the PRC?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(10 July 2014)

The EU constantly monitors the human rights situation in China, including through its Delegation in Beijing. Despite of the lack of transparency of the security, legal and penitentiary system, the EU is aware of the many problems faced by human rights defenders and Chinese citizens who are fighting for their rights. The situation is raised regularly by the EU in public statements and through bilateral contacts. There are currently 58 EU nationals in Chinese prisons and around 26 held in administrative and other extra-judicial detention.

The EU is not negotiating a free trade agreement with China. At the November 2013 Summit, the EU and China launched negotiations for a bilateral Investment Agreement. So far, there rounds of negotiations have taken place.

Dialogue on Human Rights is an integral part of the EU's relations with China as confirmed by the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation, which was adopted at the 2013 EU-China Summit and foresees a deepening of 'exchanges on human rights at the bilateral and international level on the basis of equality and mutual respect'.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-004096/14  
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)**

(2 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Il ruolo diplomatico carente dell'UE nella risoluzione diplomatica della crisi ucraina

Lo scorso 30 marzo si sono incontrati a Parigi il segretario di Stato statunitense e il ministro degli Esteri russo, al fine di cercare un nuovo percorso che potesse disinnescare la crisi ucraina. Il rappresentante di Mosca ha chiesto una nuova costituzione che garantisca un'organizzazione federale dello Stato, proposta già rigettata da Kiev, tanto che lo stesso ministro russo ha confermato che l'incontro è stato infruttuoso. Gli USA invece hanno richiesto che la Russia ritiri le sue truppe dalla frontiera ucraina, il disarmo delle forze irregolari, l'invio di osservatori internazionali per la protezione dei diritti delle minoranze e un dialogo diretto tra Mosca e Kiev.

L'incontro è stato organizzato in poche ore, alla vigilia della riunione dei ministri degli Esteri della NATO di oggi a Bruxelles, che prevedibilmente sarà dominata dalla crisi ucraina, ma l'Unione europea ne è rimasta esclusa, quando invece dovrebbe essere il primo attore internazionale interessato a una risoluzione pacifica della questione nei tempi più brevi e nel pieno rispetto del diritto internazionale. Questa assenza da parte europea non è giustificabile e pertanto si chiede al Vice-presidente/Alto Rappresentante come intenda far valere il peso negoziale europeo di fronte a Mosca sulla questione ucraina, in maniera almeno paritaria rispetto a quella degli Stati Uniti.

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

(11 luglio 2014)

Nel quadro dell'azione internazionale volta a trovare una soluzione pacifica per la situazione in Ucraina, l'UE ha svolto un ruolo di primo piano. Lo scorso 17 aprile l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton ha partecipato, a Ginevra, a un incontro con i rappresentanti dei governi ucraino, statunitense e russo, conclusosi con la dichiarazione comune di Ginevra sull'Ucraina. In quell'occasione l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha esortato tutte le parti a garantire la piena attuazione delle disposizioni previste nella dichiarazione comune, compreso l'invito a usare il proprio potere di leva sui gruppi armati illegali affinché cessino ogni forma di violenza e provocazione e cedano le armi. L'UE sta mettendo in atto rigorose misure restrittive contro coloro che hanno compromesso l'integrità territoriale e la sovranità dell'Ucraina, nonché nei confronti dei responsabili di violazioni dei diritti umani e di assegnazione impropria dei fondi statali in Ucraina. L'UE sta inoltre contribuendo al processo di stabilizzazione del paese e al programma di riforma con una cospicua assistenza finanziaria: il sostegno complessivo dell'UE all'Ucraina, combinando tutte le misure, potrebbe ammontare a 11 miliardi di EUR nei prossimi anni. Il sostegno che l'UE ha fornito, anche attraverso l'OSCE e il Consiglio d'Europa, in occasione delle recenti elezioni presidenziali e che tuttora fornisce per il processo di riforme costituzionali in corso sta aiutando l'Ucraina a creare una società più democratica e inclusiva. L'UE e l'Ucraina si stanno ora preparando a firmare le rimanenti disposizioni dell'accordo di associazione, incluse quelle relative alla zona di libero scambio globale e approfondito. Ciò consentirà di rafforzare ulteriormente e in modo molto concreto le già solide relazioni UE-Ucraina.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004096/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)**

(2 April 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — The paltry diplomatic role being played by the EU in finding a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Ukraine

On 30 March, the US Secretary of State John Kerry met Sergey Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister, in Paris in a renewed effort to reach some common ground and defuse the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Mr Lavrov expressed Moscow's desire for a new federal constitution to be drawn up for the country (a proposal that had already been rejected by Kiev), and afterwards announced that the talks had borne no fruit. Mr Kerry, on the other hand, called on Russia to withdraw its troops from the Ukrainian borders and establish a direct dialogue with the Ukrainian Government, and also for all irregular forces to be disarmed and a team of international observers to be sent to the country in order to protect the rights of minority populations.

The talks, which lasted for a few hours, were held on the eve of today's meeting in Brussels between NATO Foreign Ministers, which is expected to be dominated by the Ukrainian crisis. However, the European Union will not be represented at this meeting, even though it should be the principal international actor involved in bringing the crisis to a peaceful resolution as quickly as possible, and in full compliance with international law. The EU's continued absence from the negotiations is simply unjustifiable. Consequently, could the High Representative/Vice-President please indicate how she intends to make the EU more involved in the talks with Moscow over the Ukrainian crisis, so that it plays at least as important a role as the United States?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(11 July 2014)

The EU has been at the forefront of international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the situation in Ukraine. High Representative/Vice-President Ashton participated along with the governments of Ukraine, the United States and the Russian Federation in 17 April 2014 discussions leading to the Geneva Joint Statement on Ukraine. In Geneva, the HRVP called on all parties to ensure that the terms of the Geneva Joint Statement were fully implemented, including by using their leverage on illegal armed groups to stop violence and provocation and to make them hand in their arms. The EU is pursuing robust restrictive measures against those who have undermined Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as against those responsible for human rights violations and misallocation of State funds in Ukraine. It is also providing important assistance to help stabilise the country as well as support the reform programme; EU measures combined could bring overall support of at least EUR 11 billion over the coming years. EU support including through the OSCE and Council of Europe for recent Presidential elections and the on-going constitutional reform process is helping Ukrainians create a more democratic and inclusive society. The EU and Ukraine are now preparing to sign remaining provisions of the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. This will further cement the EU's and Ukraine's already strong relationship in a very tangible way.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-004101/14  
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)  
(2 aprile 2014)**

Oggetto: VP/HR — Nuove manifestazioni e rischio di smembramento dell'Ucraina

Fonti governative ucraine sostengono che la rivolta filo-russa in Ucraina stia dilagando nell'est e nel sud del paese e che la capitale economica del paese, Donetsk, e Odessa siano due centri particolarmente a rischio. Nella prima di tali città, migliaia di sostenitori del Cremlino sono scesi in piazza per protestare contro la nomina a governatore di un oligarca scelto dal governo di Kiev, fino all'occupazione di alcuni piani della sede del governo regionale da parte di alcune centinaia di manifestanti. A Odessa, invece, centinaia di persone sono scese in piazza in favore del nuovo governo ucraino, mentre, paradossalmente, sul palazzo del Consiglio regionale di Odessa sventola la bandiera russa, issata da circa 700 manifestanti pro-Mosca che hanno fatto irruzione nell'edificio.

Mentre queste manifestazioni fanno aumentare la tensione nel paese, le guardie di frontiera ucraine hanno informato dell'atterraggio di dieci elicotteri da combattimento e otto aerei da trasporto russi, senza che Kiev fosse informata con 72 ore di anticipo, come previsto dall'accordo bilaterale sulla flotta russa del Mar Nero di stanza a Sebastopoli. Si parla adesso di circa 16mila militari russi nella penisola.

In merito all'aumento della tensione in diversi centri urbani ucraini, può il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante chiarire quale strategia intenda adottare, alla luce degli scarsi risultati finora raggiunti?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione  
(11 luglio 2014)**

Da quando è stata presentata l'interrogazione si sono verificati notevoli sviluppi e la situazione cambia di giorno in giorno.

Come indicato nella dichiarazione rilasciata il 27 maggio dai capi di Stato e di governo, l'UE aderisce pienamente alla dichiarazione comune di Ginevra del 17 aprile ed elogia il ruolo svolto dalla missione speciale di monitoraggio dell'OSCE nel contribuire alla sua attuazione, come pure gli sforzi compiuti finora dalle autorità ucraine per attuarla ([http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142863.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142863.pdf)).

L'UE esorta nuovamente la Federazione russa a prendere provvedimenti per attuare integralmente la dichiarazione. Gli sforzi compiuti da tutte le parti dovrebbero mirare a risolvere la crisi sul piano politico ponendo fine, in particolare, alle violenze e alle tensioni nell'Ucraina orientale, come anche prevedendo il disarmo di tutti i gruppi armati illegali e l'amnistia per coloro che hanno depresso volontariamente le armi e che non hanno commesso reati gravi.

L'UE continua a prestare assistenza per contribuire a stabilizzare la situazione macroeconomica e a condurre riforme strutturali nel paese. A marzo la Commissione ha proposto un pacchetto finanziario di 11 miliardi di EUR, dopo di che ha creato un apposito gruppo di sostegno per aiutare le autorità ucraine ad attuare un programma europeo di riforma elaborato di comune accordo. Sono state poste in atto diverse misure, tra cui la prima erogazione dell'assistenza macrofinanziaria, per un totale a oggi di 1,61 miliardi di EUR, e la firma di un contratto di potenziamento istituzionale tra la Commissione europea e il governo dell'Ucraina. Maggiori particolari sul sostegno dell'UE, comprese le misure commerciali autonome, sono disponibili al seguente indirizzo: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-14-279\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-279_en.htm).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004101/14**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**  
**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)**  
(2 April 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Fresh demonstrations in Ukraine, and risk of the country breaking up

Sources in the Ukrainian Government suggest that the pro-Russian uprising in Ukraine is growing more widespread in eastern and southern parts of the country, and that the two cities of Donetsk (the economic hub of the region) and Odessa are particularly at risk. In Donetsk, thousands of pro-Russian demonstrators have taken to the streets to protest against the Ukrainian Government's decision to appoint an oligarch as regional governor, with several hundred going as far as occupying several floors of the regional government building. In Odessa, meanwhile, even though hundreds of people have marched in support of the newly formed Ukrainian Government, the Russian flag can be seen flying over the city's council headquarters, after being raised by around 700 pro-Russian supporters who had stormed the building.

In addition to these demonstrations, which are making the situation in the country even more tense, the Ukrainian border police have also reported that ten Russian attack helicopters and eight Russian transport aeroplanes have touched down in Ukraine without Kiev having been given 72 hours' advance notice, as is expressly stipulated in the bilateral agreement concerning Russia's Black Sea Fleet stationed in Sevastopol. Around 16 000 Russian troops are now thought to be in the peninsula.

In light of the heightened levels of tension in various Ukrainian cities, can the High Representative/Vice-President indicate what strategy she intends to adopt, especially in view of the insufficient progress that has so far been made?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**  
(11 July 2014)

Events have evolved considerably since the question was asked, and the situation changes daily.

As noted in the 27 May Heads of State and Government statement, the EU is fully committed to the 17 April Geneva Joint Statement and commends the role of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in assisting in its implementation, as well as the efforts undertaken so far by the Ukrainian authorities to implement it ([http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142863.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142863.pdf)).

We reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to take actions to fully implement the statement. The efforts by all sides should aim at solving the crisis politically, putting an end to violence and tensions in Eastern Ukraine, including disarmament of all illegal armed groups and amnesty to those who have rendered their arms voluntarily and have not committed serious crimes.

We continue to lend assistance to help stabilise the macroeconomic situation and conduct structural reforms. In March, the Commission put forward an EUR 11 billion financial package. Subsequently, it has created a dedicated Support Group to help authorities implement a jointly agreed European Agenda for Reform. Measures have been deployed, including the first disbursement of macro-financial assistance totalling now 1.61 billion euro and the signature of a State Building contract between the European Commission and the government of Ukraine. More details of EU support, including on autonomous trade measures can be found in the link: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-14-279\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-279_en.htm)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-004167/14  
alla Commissione  
Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)  
(3 aprile 2014)**

Oggetto: Violenza sui migranti in Spagna

La tensione nell'enclave spagnola di Ceuta, sulle coste del Marocco, è sempre altissima. In una mattinata di febbraio alcuni migranti hanno preso d'assalto la frontiera con la Spagna. La polizia spagnola ha respinto l'attacco con una carica, e i migranti si sono spostati sulla riva. Secondo le ricostruzioni la polizia ha iniziato a sparare proiettili di gomma, costringendo molte persone a buttarsi in mare. Alla fine degli scontri i sommozzatori hanno ripescato 14 corpi senza vita, affogati. In alcuni video si vedono i poliziotti sparare i proiettili di gomma a migranti in difficoltà, mentre quelli che riuscivano a raggiungere la riva spagnola — dove avrebbero dovuto essere accolti in centri specializzati — sono stati riconsegnati immediatamente alle autorità marocchine. Non è giunto alcun commento, che ci risulti, dal Commissario Malmström e dall'Unione europea nei confronti della Spagna.

Alla luce di quanto precede, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. Ha rilasciato commenti al riguardo di quanto avvenuto a Ceuta?
2. In che modo coopera con le autorità marocchine per prevenire tali «assalti»?
3. Non ritiene di dovere invitare tutti gli Stati membri ad abolire i proiettili di gomma, dati gli enormi e acclarati rischi per la salute?
4. Ritiene che la Spagna abbia seguito le regole europee, ed ha intenzione di aprire un'indagine al riguardo, riconsegnando i migranti «sbarcati» a Ceuta al Regno del Marocco?

**Risposta di Cecilia Malmström a nome della Commissione  
(16 luglio 2014)**

1. Immediatamente dopo gli incidenti di Ceuta, cui fa riferimento l'onorevole deputato, la Commissione ha manifestato le proprie preoccupazioni riguardo all'utilizzo di proiettili di gomma e ha chiesto chiarimenti alle autorità spagnole. Queste ultime hanno confermato l'avvio di un'indagine giudiziaria sul caso, di cui la Commissione attende i risultati.
2. Il 7 giugno 2013 è stato firmato un partenariato di mobilità con il Marocco che comprende una serie di impegni e iniziative riguardanti la migrazione legale, la migrazione irregolare, la protezione internazionale e la migrazione e sviluppo. Tra gli impegni presi dal Marocco vi è l'istituzione di un regime nazionale di asilo. La Commissione si sta adoperando per garantire che le iniziative di cooperazione previste da questo partenariato di mobilità proseguano e che la situazione dei migranti subsahariani in Marocco venga affrontata adeguatamente.
3. Le misure di sorveglianza alla frontiera devono essere proporzionate. L'uso della forza è ammissibile solo se indispensabile e nella misura necessaria all'esecuzione dei compiti di polizia. L'intervento deve essere giustificato e proporzionato, volto a tutelare la sicurezza e la vita degli agenti, e non utilizzato come mero deterrente per impedire l'attraversamento illegale della frontiera.
4. La sorveglianza di frontiera deve essere effettuata senza ledere i diritti di coloro che richiedono protezione internazionale, in particolare per quanto concerne il principio di non respingimento e l'accesso effettivo alla procedura di asilo. Gli Stati membri devono assicurare il rispetto delle garanzie minime sulla base della direttiva sul rimpatrio <sup>(1)</sup> indipendentemente dalla scelta che possono aver operato — come nel caso della Spagna — di non applicare detta direttiva ai cittadini di paesi terzi fermati alle frontiere. La Commissione non esiterà ad adottare adeguati provvedimenti se saranno comprovate violazioni della legislazione europea da parte di uno Stato membro.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Direttiva 2008/115/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 16 dicembre 2008, recante norme e procedure comuni applicabili negli Stati membri al rimpatrio di cittadini di paesi terzi il cui soggiorno è irregolare; G.U. L. 348 del 24.12.2008, pag. 98.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004167/14**  
**to the Commission**  
**Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)**  
(3 April 2014)

*Subject:* Violence against migrants in Spain

Tensions in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on the Moroccan coast are always very high. One morning in February a number of migrants stormed the Spanish border. The Spanish police charged and repelled the attack, and the migrants moved down to the beach. According to reconstructions, the police began firing rubber bullets, forcing many people into the sea. After the clashes divers recovered the bodies of 14 migrants who had drowned. Videos show the police firing rubber bullets at migrants in difficulties, while those who managed to reach the Spanish beach — from where they should have been taken to special centres — were immediately sent back to the Moroccan authorities. Commissioner Malmström and the European Union have apparently not made any comment to Spain about these events.

In view of the above, can the Commission please answer the following questions?

1. Has it issued any comments on the events in Ceuta?
2. How is it cooperating with the Moroccan authorities to prevent these kinds of 'assaults'?
3. Does it not believe it should call on all Member States to ban rubber bullets, given the considerable, confirmed risk they pose to human health?
4. Does it think Spain followed European rules by sending the migrants who had 'landed' in Ceuta back to the Kingdom of Morocco, and does it intend to launch an investigation into the matter?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission**  
(16 July 2014)

1. Immediately after the Ceuta incident referred to by the Honourable Member, the Commission expressed its concerns over the use of rubber bullets and requested explanations from the Spanish authorities. The latter confirmed the launch of a judicial inquiry into the incident. The Commission is awaiting the outcome of that inquiry.
2. A Mobility Partnership was signed with Morocco on 7 June 2013. This includes a set of commitments and initiatives covering legal migration, irregular migration, international protection and migration and development. One of the commitments made by Morocco is to establish a national asylum system. The Commission is working to ensure that the cooperation initiatives set out in this Mobility Partnership are continued and that the situation of Sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco is properly addressed.
3. Any border surveillance measures must be proportionate. Force may only be used when necessary and to the extent required for the performance of the officers' duties. It must be justified and proportionate, with a view to protecting the safety and life of officers and it should not be used merely as a deterrent for unauthorised border crossing.
4. Border surveillance must be carried out without prejudice to the rights of persons requesting international protection, in particular as regards the principle of *non-refoulement* and effective access to the asylum procedure. Member States must ensure the respect of minimum guarantees based on the Return Directive <sup>(1)</sup> notwithstanding their choice, as Spain, not to apply that directive to third-country nationals apprehended at the border. The Commission will not hesitate to take appropriate steps where there is evidence that a Member State has violated EC law.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16.12.2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals; OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, p. 98-107.



(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004223/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)**  
(4 ta' April 2014)

*Suġġett:* Suldati tfal

Fil-kunflitti, it-tfal jiġu separati mill-familji tagħhom, rekrutati bħala suldati, sfurzati joqtlu u soġġetti għal sfruttament sesswali fost l-ohrajn. Dan għandu effetti devastanti dejjiema fuq l-iżvilupp fiżiku u mentali tagħhom.

L-għadd stmat ta' tfal involuti f'kunflitti armati fil-preżent ivarja bejn 250 000 u 800 000.

Hu stmat li sa mill-1996, 6 miljun tifel u tifla ndarbu f'kunflitti armati, waqt li madwar 2 miljuni nqatlu. Madwar 20 miljun tifel u tifla ġew spostati minhabba kunflitti armati jew ksur prolongat tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem.

Bejn 8 000 u 10 000 tifel u tifla nqatlu jew sofrew mankamenti bil-mini tal-art kull sena. It-tfal sikwit huma dawk li l-aktar jintlaqtu mill-kunflitti armati u huma f'riskju akbar ta' ksur multiplu u ripetut tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem l-aktar fundamentali tagħhom.

Fid-dawl ta' dan kollu, kif qed tippjana l-Kummissjoni li tressaq agenda ta' politika dwar it-tfal li lill-UE tagħmilha attur globali fir-rigward tal-protezzjoni tat-tfal?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mir-Rappreżentant Għoli/il-Viċi President Ashton f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(8 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-promozzjoni u l-protezzjoni tad-drittijiet tat-tfal hija kwistjoni ta' prijorità għall-UE. Għalhekk, l-UE tistinka biex issahhah il-protezzjoni, u tippromwovi d-drittijiet inerenti tagħhom.

Fil-waqt li l-UE tirrikonoxxi li atturi mhux Statali jirrapprezentaw il-maġġoranza assoluta ta' vjolazzjonijiet serji kontra t-tfal, hija temmen bil-qawwa kollha li l-Istati għandhom ir-responsabbiltà primarja għall-protezzjoni tal-popolazzjoni tagħhom, inklużi t-tfal, minn abbużi u vjolazzjonijiet tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem.

Għal din ir-raġuni, l-UE ilha tillobbja ma' tmien Stati li għadhom jużaw jew jirrekrutaw tfal waqt il-kunflitti armati biex jissiehu fil-kampanja "Tfal, Mhux Suldati" li tvarat mir-Rappreżentant Speċjali tan-NU L. Zerrougui fis-6 ta' Marzu 2014, u biex jiffirmaw u jimplimentaw b'mod shih il-Pjanijiet ta' Azzjoni man-Nazzjonijiet Uniti f'dan il-qasam, sal-2016. L-UE hija wkoll lesta li tappoġġja d-demobilizzazzjoni u r-reintegrazzjoni ta' tfal marbuta ma' gruppi armati fil-kuntest ta' proċessi tal-paċi jekk dawk il-gruppi jiffirmaw u jibdeu jimplimentaw il-Pjanijiet ta' Azzjoni.

L-Unjoni Ewropea għandha politika soda, permezz tal-Linji Gwida tal-Unjoni Ewropea dwar it-tfal u l-kunflitti armati. Din il-politika giet ukoll sottostanzjata b'għajnuna għall-iżvilupp u għajjnuna umanitarja <sup>(1)</sup> (perez, iktar minn EUR 300 miljuni intefqu mill-UE u l-Istati Membri tagħha f'assistenza għal tfal affettwati minn kunflitti armati fl-2009-2012). Fl-aħhar nett, l-Unjoni Ewropea hija sieheb rispettat hafna u mfittex min-Nazzjonijiet Uniti dwar din il-kwistjoni daqshekk delikata.

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<sup>(1)</sup> L-UE appoġġjat diversi proġetti għall-protezzjoni tat-tfal fil-kunflitti armati u l-attivitàjiet għad-Diżarm, id-Demobilizzazzjoni u r-Reintegrazzjoni ta' tfal assoċjati ma' forzi u gruppi armati: is-sejha tal-2007 "Miżuri ta' prevenzjoni u riabilitazzjoni li jindirizzaw lit-tfal assoċjati ma' forzi u gruppi armati jew involuti fl-aghhar forum ta' thaddim tat-tfal f'sitwazzjonijiet ta' kunflitt jew ta' wara kunflitt" (EUR 15.2 miljun, 30 proġett sa mill-2009) bi proġett speċifiku fir-RDK biex titjieb il-protezzjoni ta' 800 tifla f'riskju li jiġu rekrutati jew li kienu suldati tfal; għajjnuna lill-Organizzazzjoni Internazzjonali tax-Xogħol (ILO) u lill-IPEC (Programm Internazzjonali għall-Eliminazzjoni tat-Thaddim tat-Tfal) għal programm "Sostenn għall-miżuri ta' prevenzjoni u riabilitazzjoni li jindirizzaw tfal assoċjati ma' forzi u gruppi armati jew involuti fl-aghhar forum ta' thaddim tat-tfal f'sitwazzjonijiet ta' kunflitt jew ta' wara kunflitt", 2007-2009, EUR 1.3 miljun. Is-sejha tal-2012 "Vjolenza kontra t-tfal", EUR 41 miljun, 30 proġett, li jinkludi enfazi fuq il-protezzjoni tat-tfal fil-kunflitt fir-RDK.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004223/14  
to the Commission**

**Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)**

(4 April 2014)

*Subject:* Child soldiers

Children in conflicts are separated from their families, recruited as soldiers, forced to kill and subjected to sexual exploitation among other things, which has lifelong devastating effects on their physical and mental development.

The estimated number of children who are involved in armed conflict at present varies widely from 250 000 to 800 000.

It is estimated that, since 1996, 6 million children have been injured in armed conflict, and some 2 million have been killed. Approximately 20 million children have been displaced due to armed conflicts or sustained human rights violations.

Between 8 000 and 10 000 children are killed or maimed by landmines every year. Children often bear the brunt of armed conflict and are at heightened risk of multiple and repeated violations of their most fundamental human rights.

In light of this, how does the Commission plan to put forward a child policy agenda that would make the EU a global player in child protection?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(8 July 2014)

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child is a priority concern for the EU. Therefore, it strives to strengthen their protection and promote their inherent rights.

While the EU recognises that non-State actors account for the overwhelming majority of grave violations against children, it strongly holds that the States have primary responsibility for the protection of their population, including children, from human rights abuses and violations.

For that reason, the EU has been lobbying 8 remaining States that still use or recruit children during armed conflict to join the 'Children, Not Soldiers' campaign which was launched by the UN Special Representative L. Zerrougui on 6 March 2014, and to sign and implement fully the action plans with the United Nations in this area by 2016. The EU is also ready to support demobilisation and reintegration of children associated with armed groups in the context of peace-processes if those groups sign and start implement the action plans.

The European Union has a solid policy, through the European Union Guidelines on children and armed conflict. This policy has also been underpinned by development assistance <sup>(1)</sup> and humanitarian aid (e.g. more than 300 million EUR were spent by the EU and its Member States on assistance to children affected by armed conflict in 2009-2012). Finally the European Union is a longstanding well-respected and sought after partner by the United Nations on this highly delicate issue.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The EU has been supporting several projects for the protection of children from armed conflicts and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration activities for children associated with armed forces and groups: 2007 call 'Prevention and rehabilitation measures addressing children associated with armed forces and groups or involved in worst forms of child labour in conflict or post-conflict situations' (EUR 15.2 million, 30 projects starting from 2009) with a specific project in DRC to enhance protection for 800 girls at risk of enlisting or ex child soldiers; support to ILO (International Labour Organisation) and IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) for a program 'Support prevention and rehabilitation measures addressing children associated with armed forces and groups or involved in worst forms of child labour in conflict or post-conflict situations', 2007-2009, EUR 1.3 million. 2012 Call 'Violence against children', EUR 41 million, 30 projects, which includes a focus on protection of children from conflict in DRC.

(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-004268/14  
à la Commission (Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante)**

**Isabelle Durant (Verts/ALE)**

(7 avril 2014)

*Objet:* VP/HR — Protocole d'accord UE-Israël

Le 19 juillet 2013, la Commission publiait des lignes directrices excluant la possibilité, pour les entités établies ou actives dans les colonies israéliennes des territoires palestiniens, de percevoir un quelconque soutien financier de la part de l'Union européenne. D'après les informations fournies par la Commission, ces lignes directrices étaient applicables dès janvier 2014. Entre-temps, la Commission et Israël étaient censés signer un protocole d'accord.

Le texte de ce protocole sur l'association d'Israël au programme Horizon 2020 a été paraphé le 18 décembre 2013.

Dans ce contexte, la Vice-présidente/Haute Représentante peut-elle dire:

1. si les lignes directrices ont été pleinement respectées en ce qui concerne le programme Horizon 2020?
2. s'il a été mis la dernière main au texte du protocole d'accord?
3. dans le cas où le texte du protocole d'accord n'aurait pas encore été signé, quand le document devrait être finalisé?
4. si Horizon 2020 est déjà mis en œuvre? Si Israël y participe? Dans l'affirmative, sur quelle base? Dans la négative, quand Israël sera-t-il en mesure d'y participer?

**Réponse donnée par M. Füle au nom de la Commission**

(10 juillet 2014)

Les lignes directrices seront mises en œuvre pour tous les programmes de l'UE à compter du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2014. Le programme-cadre pour la recherche et l'innovation «Horizon 2020» est le premier de la série de programmes de l'UE auxquels Israël sera associé. L'accord d'association d'Israël au programme Horizon 2020 a été paraphé en décembre 2013 et signé le 8 juin 2014. L'accord entrera en vigueur lorsque Israël l'aura ratifié, ce qui devrait être fait dans les semaines à venir. Il s'appliquera rétroactivement avec effet au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2014.

Les premiers appels à propositions pour le programme «Horizon 2020» ont été publiés le 11 décembre 2013. Les premières évaluations auront lieu prochainement et la signature des premières conventions de subvention au titre d'Horizon 2020 est prévue pour fin juillet et pour après l'été. Toute entité sollicitant un financement dans le cadre du programme est tenue de déclarer qu'elle satisfait aux critères d'éligibilité des appels à propositions, en parfaite conformité avec les lignes directrices. La procédure de candidature est conforme à la mise en œuvre des lignes directrices.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004268/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

**Isabelle Durant (Verts/ALE)**

(7 April 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Memorandum of understanding between EU and Israel

On 19 July 2013 the Commission published guidelines excluding entities established or active in Israeli settlements in Palestine from receiving financial support from the EU. According to the information given by the Commission, the guidelines were applicable as from January 2014. In the meantime, the Commission and Israel were supposed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The text of the MoU on Israel's association with the Horizon 2020 programme was initialled on 18 December 2013.

In this context, can the Vice-President/High Representative provide the following information:

1. Have the guidelines been fully implemented in respect of the Horizon 2020 programme?
2. Has the text of the MoU been finalised?
3. If the text of the MoU has not yet been signed, when can we expect the agreement to be finalised?
4. Has Horizon 2020 entered into force? Can Israel participate in it? If so, on what basis? If not, when will it be able to participate?

**Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission**

(10 July 2014)

The Guidelines will be implemented across all EU programmes, starting from 1 January 2014. Horizon 2020, the framework Programme for Research and Innovation, is the first of a number of EU programmes to which Israel will be associated. Israel's agreement of association to Horizon 2020 was initialled in December 2013 and the signature of the agreement took place on 8 June 2014. The agreement will enter into force following Israel's ratification, which is expected in the coming weeks. It will apply retroactively with effect from 1 January 2014.

The first Calls for Proposals for Horizon 2020 were published on 11 December 2013. The first evaluations will soon take place and the first Grant Agreements from Horizon 2020 are expected for signature in late July and after summer. All entities applying for funding to the programme are requested to declare that they fulfil the eligibility criteria of the calls for proposals which are in full conformity with the Guidelines. The application process is compliant with the implementation of the guidelines.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-004395/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)**

(9 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Dichiarazione unilaterale dell'indipendenza della regione di Donetsk

Un gruppo di filorussi dell'Ucraina orientale, che ieri hanno occupato il palazzo della regione di Donetsk, hanno proclamato la nascita della Repubblica sovrana di Donetsk, annunciando per l'11 maggio un referendum per la possibile annessione alla Russia della regione.

Anche in altre aree la situazione si sta surriscaldando, come ad esempio a Lugansk, dove i dimostranti hanno occupato parte della sede dei servizi segreti e hanno issato la bandiera russa all'esterno dell'edificio e dove otto persone sono già rimaste ferite in seguito agli scontri con le forze dell'ordine. Anche a Kharkiv diverse decine di persone hanno fatto irruzione nella sede del governo regionale e hanno issato bandiere russe alle finestre, ma oggi sono state sgomberate, secondo quanto afferma Kiev.

La situazione di Donetsk potrebbe divenire la seconda tessera a cadere nel pericoloso effetto domino generato dal referendum in Crimea e non è escluso che la tensione in altre città non possa acuirsi ulteriormente.

In merito agli ultimi eventi avvenuti a Donetsk, può la Commissione chiarire se:

1. È a conoscenza dell'accaduto?
2. Qual è la sua posizione in merito all'autoproclamata indipendenza?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

(11 luglio 2014)

La Commissione e il Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna seguono con estrema attenzione l'evolversi della situazione in Ucraina e hanno espresso preoccupazione per i continui tentativi da parte dei separatisti filorussi di destabilizzare l'Ucraina orientale e meridionale. Come evidenziato nelle conclusioni del Consiglio Affari esteri del 12 maggio 2014, i continui atti di sequestro degli edifici pubblici, di rapimento, assassinio e violazione della libertà dei media da parte di gruppi armati illegali sono inaccettabili e devono cessare. L'UE ha anche chiarito che non intende riconoscere i referendum illegittimi e illeciti dell'11 maggio 2014.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004395/14**  
**to the Commission**  
**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)**  
(9 April 2014)

*Subject:* Unilateral declaration of independence in the Donetsk region

A pro-Russian group in eastern Ukraine, which yesterday occupied the regional government building in Donetsk, has proclaimed the birth of the sovereign Republic of Donetsk, announcing an 11 May referendum on possible annexation of the region by Russia.

In other areas, too, the situation is coming to a head, such as in Lugansk, where protesters have occupied part of the headquarters of the secret services and hoisted the Russian flag outside the building and where eight people were wounded following clashes with the police. In Kharkiv too, several dozen people have broken into the headquarters of the regional government and hoisted the Russian flag at the windows, but they have now been cleared out, according to Kiev.

The situation in Donetsk could yet become the next tile to fall in the dangerous domino effect generated by the referendum in Crimea and the tension could continue to grow in other cities.

1. Is the Commission aware of the events in Donetsk?
2. What is its position regarding the self-proclaimed independence?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**  
(11 July 2014)

The Commission and the European External Action Service are following closely the evolving situation in Ukraine and are alarmed by the continued efforts by pro-Russian separatists to destabilise Eastern and Southern Ukraine. As made clear in the 12 May 2014 conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council, the continued seizure of public buildings, kidnappings, killings and violation of media freedom by illegal armed groups is unacceptable and must stop. The EU has also made clear that it will not recognise the illegitimate and illegal 'referenda' on 11 May 2014.

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*(Versione italiana)*

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-004398/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)**

*(9 aprile 2014)*

**Oggetto:** Morte di un cittadino europeo a Homs

A Homs, in Siria, è morto l'unico europeo rimasto nella città, un anziano prete gesuita olandese. A darne notizia sono diverse fonti dell'attivismo non violento, anche se la notizia non è stata ufficialmente confermata. Dalle prime ricostruzioni, l'uomo sarebbe stato colpito da un proiettile, non si sa ancora se vagante o se per un attacco deliberato.

L'uomo si è impegnato per tutto il corso della guerra affinché i civili fossero fatti evacuare dalla città, dove soffrono per la fame e la scarsa igiene, arrivando anche a pubblicare un appello video su un noto social network.

In merito a questa notizia, può la Commissione chiarire se dispone di maggiori informazioni che possano confermarla e dare eventualmente ulteriori chiarimenti in merito alla dinamica dell'accaduto?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

*(10 luglio 2014)*

L'8 aprile 2014 il servizio del portavoce dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha emesso un comunicato che condanna l'assassinio del prete gesuita Frans Van der Lugt a Homs. [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140408\\_07\\_en.pdf](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140408_07_en.pdf)

L'Unione europea non è in grado di fornire ulteriori chiarimenti sulle circostanze della morte di padre Van der Lugt.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004398/14  
to the Commission  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)  
(9 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Death of a European citizen in Homs

The last European left in Homs, Syria, an elderly Jesuit priest from the Netherlands, has died. The sources of the news were various non-violent activist groups, although there has not yet been any official confirmation. According to initial reports, the man was hit by a projectile, but it is not yet known whether it was stray or a deliberate attack.

Throughout the war, this man had taken it upon himself to evacuate civilians, suffering from hunger and poor hygiene, from the city. He even managed to make a video appeal on a well-known social network.

In the light of this, can the Commission say whether it has further information to confirm the news and possibly provide additional clarification as to the actual circumstances?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission  
(10 July 2014)**

On 8 April 2014 the Spokesperson of the HR/VP issued a statement condemning the assassination of Father Frans Van der Lugt, SJ in Homs. [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140408\\_07\\_en.pdf](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2014/140408_07_en.pdf)

The EU is not in a position to provide further clarifications concerning the circumstances of his death.

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(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-004454/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Elena Băsescu (PPE)**  
(10 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Grup de sprijin pentru Ucraina

Comisia Europeană a anunțat crearea unui „Grup de sprijin” pentru Ucraina. Acest organism ar urma să colaboreze cu autoritățile ucrainene în vederea stabilizării situației economice și politice interne, precum și în vederea demarării unor reforme naționale.

Intenționează Comisia să includă în acest format și alte țări din vecinătatea estică, precum Georgia sau Republica Moldova? În ce măsură un asemenea format de colaborare ar putea funcționa ca un catalizator pentru reformele din Ucraina sau din alte state vizate?

**Răspuns dat de dl Füle în numele Comisiei**  
(16 iunie 2014)

La 5 martie, Comisia a convenit asupra unei serii de măsuri concrete, pe termen scurt și mediu, pentru a contribui la stabilizarea situației economice și financiare din Ucraina, a susține procesul de tranziție, a încuraja reformele politice și economice și a sprijini o dezvoltare favorabilă incluziunii în beneficiul tuturor cetățenilor ucraineni.

În urma discuțiilor cu autoritățile ucrainene, a fost stabilită o „agendă europeană de reformă” pentru a corela acțiunile de sprijin pe termen scurt și mediu ale UE cu nevoile Ucrainei. Prin urmare, la 9 aprilie, Comisia a hotărât să creeze un grup de sprijin pentru Ucraina care să reprezinte un punct focal, să asigure o structură și o imagine de ansamblu și să furnizeze orientări pentru activitatea Comisiei în sprijinul Ucrainei.

Această decizie a confirmat hotărârea clară a Comisiei de a sprijini guvernul Ucrainei să își atingă potențialul maxim în cel mai scurt timp posibil și de a asista Ucraina în eforturile sale de a-și construi o economie sustenabilă, cât mai curând posibil.

În această etapă, grupul de sprijin se va concentra în special pe Ucraina. Cu toate acestea, astfel cum se menționează în decizia Președintelui din 9 aprilie, dacă este cazul, activitatea grupului de sprijin ar putea fi extinsă pentru a include Georgia și Moldova.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004454/14  
to the Commission  
Elena Băsescu (PPE)  
(10 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Ukraine support group

The Commission has announced its intention of creating a 'support group' for Ukraine with the task of cooperating with the Ukrainian authorities in stabilising the internal economic and political situation and launching a programme of national reforms.

Does the Commission intend to extend these arrangements to other eastern European neighbours such as Georgia or the Republic of Moldova? To what extent could such cooperation act as a catalyst for reforms in Ukraine or other countries involved?

**Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission  
(16 June 2014)**

On 5 March, the Commission agreed on a number of concrete measures for the short and medium term to help stabilise the economic and financial situation in Ukraine, assist with the transition, encourage political and economic reforms and support inclusive development for the benefit of all Ukrainians.

Following discussions with the Ukrainian authorities, a 'European agenda for reform' has been established to match the EU's short- and mid-term support actions with Ukraine's needs. The Commission therefore decided on 9 April to create a Support Group for Ukraine to provide a focal point, structure, overview and guidance for the Commission's work to support Ukraine.

This decision confirmed the Commission's clear determination to assist the Government of Ukraine in meeting its full potential as rapidly as possible and to assist Ukraine in its efforts to build a sustainable economy as soon as possible.

At this stage the Support Group will specifically focus on Ukraine. However, as mentioned in the President's decision of 9 April, if necessary the Support Group's work could also be extended to Georgia and Moldova.

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*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-004500/14  
to the Commission  
Diane Dodds (NI)  
(10 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Law enforcement

What is the Commission's view on the ability of Member States to control their own borders and provide for the security of their own people, particularly in relation to law enforcement?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission  
(10 July 2014)**

Today's security challenges are often cross-border and cross-sectoral in nature and no single Member State is able to respond effectively to these threats on its own.

The Commission and the EU agencies such as Europol, Frontex, Cepol and Eurojust assist the Member States in this effort.

This common EU approach is embodied in the EU Internal Security Strategy.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004503/14  
to the Commission  
Diane Dodds (NI)  
(10 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Interreg funding

Can the Commission:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the current Interreg funding programme?
2. Provide a complete breakdown of funding allocated through this programme to each Member State?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission  
(17 July 2014)**

1. Interreg is the acronym used to define the different strands of European territorial cooperation (A: cross-border, B: transnational and C: interregional). European territorial cooperation was a community initiative in the 2000-2006 period, became a fully-fledged objective of cohesion policy as of 2007, and confirmed as such in the new 2014-2020 period. A comprehensive evaluation undertaken in 2011 of the 2000-2006 period showed that the programmes and projects supported under Interreg III have, in overall terms, generated real EU added value. Strand A has further strengthened and deepened a cross-border governance dimension for promoting socioeconomic and sustainable development along most borders of the then Member States. Strand B strengthened or further developed a transnational governance dimension in the more experienced continental programmes, whereas in the case of the ultra-peripheral programmes such a process was only initiated at the beginning of the programming period. Interregional cooperation further widened and deepened the already existing cooperation and stimulated a networking-based exchange of experience and knowledge on a broad range of issues among a large number of regional and local authorities.

The programmes for 2007-2013 have not yet been completed. An overall evaluation is not planned, although certain thematic evaluations based on a sample of programmes will be launched.

2. There is no financial breakdown by country. The financial breakdown of cooperation programmes for 2007-2013 can be found in the annex.

The allocations for 2014-2020 have not yet been finalised and will be adopted by the Commission shortly.

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(Ελληνική έκδοση)

**Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-004515/14**  
**προς την Επιτροπή**  
**Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**  
(11 Απριλίου 2014)

Θέμα: Σύμβαση πώλησης της Ελληνικών ΑΕ μέσω του ΤΑΙΠΕΔ

Στις 31.3.2014, το ΤΑΙΠΕΔ ανακοίνωσε τον πλειοδότη της απόκτησης του 100% των μετοχών της «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΑΕ». Επισημαίνουμε τα εξής τρία σημεία: 1) Στη συνολική έκταση των 6 200 000 τμ προβλέπεται η δημιουργία α) περιοχών προς πολεοδομία, β) ζωνών ανάπτυξης και γ) μητροπολιτικού πάρκου πρασίνου και αναψυχής. Σύμφωνα με την ανακοίνωση του ΤΑΙΠΕΔ, η οικονομική προσφορά του αναδόχου αφορά μόνο το σημείο (α), δηλαδή την ανάπτυξη των περιοχών προς πολεοδομία, παρόλο που στον ανάδοχο του έργου εκχωρείται το σύνολο της έκτασης. 2) Το σχέδιο αυτό «ολοκληρωμένης ανάπτυξης Μητροπολιτικού Πόλου Ελληνικού — Αγίου Κοσμά» υπάγεται στο πλαίσιο της οδηγίας 2001/42/ΕΚ, σύμφωνα με την οποία απαιτείται η σύνταξη Στρατηγικής Μελέτης Περιβαλλοντικών Επιπτώσεων (ΣΜΠΕ) κατά την εκπόνηση του σχεδίου και πριν την έγκρισή του ή την έναρξη της νομοθετικής διαδικασίας. Όμως το Ελληνικό Δημόσιο, με τον Νόμο 4062/2012, ενέκρινε το σχεδιασμό της έκτασης, τις πολεοδομικές ρυθμίσεις, συντελεστές δόμησης κτλ χωρίς την προηγούμενη σύνταξη και έγκριση της ΣΜΠΕ, σύμφωνα με την οδηγία 2001/42/ΕΚ. 3) Σύμφωνα με τη σύμβαση του Aarchus, «στο ενδιαφερόμενο κοινό» πρέπει να δίνεται «το δικαίωμα να διατυπώνει παρατηρήσεις και γνώμες, όταν όλες οι επιλογές είναι ακόμη δυνατές, στην αρμόδια αρχή πριν από τη λήψη της απόφασης για τη συναίνεση ανάπτυξης». Η απαίτηση αυτή καλύπτεται με τη σύνταξη και δημοσιοποίηση της ΣΜΠΕ (Οδηγία 2001/42/ΕΚ) η οποία προηγείται της θέσπισης του σχεδίου. Δεδομένου επίσης ότι, σε παλαιότερη ερώτησή μου (E-004347/2011), η Επιτροπή είχε απαντήσει ότι στο πλαίσιο του Κανονισμού (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1080/2006 το έργο «θα μπορούσε, κατ' αρχήν, να είναι επιλέξιμο για συγχρηματοδότηση στο πλαίσιο ενός επιχειρησιακού προγράμματος του ελληνικού εθνικού στρατηγικού πλαισίου αναφοράς της Ελλάδας (ΕΣΠΑ)», ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Στη σύμβαση που προτίθεται να υπογράψει το ΤΑΙΠΕΔ με τον επιλεγμένο επενδυτή, υπάρχει πρόβλεψη απαγόρευσης χρηματοδότησης του μητροπολιτικού πάρκου πρασίνου και αναψυχής καθώς και των ζωνών ανάπτυξης από το ΕΣΠΑ ή άλλα ευρωπαϊκά προγράμματα; Υπάρχει δυνατότητα ο επενδυτής, εφ' όσον το επιθυμεί, να ζητήσει συγχρηματοδότηση από κοινοτικά προγράμματα;
2. Θα επιτρέψει την υπογραφή της σύμβασης με τον επιλεγμένο ανάδοχο, όταν δεν πληρούνται βασικές οδηγίες του Ευρωπαϊκού Δικαίου, όπως η οδηγία 2001/42/ΕΚ και η διεθνής σύμβαση του Aarchus;

**Απάντηση του κ. Ροτοτσνίκ εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής**  
(14 Ιουλίου 2014)

Σύμφωνα με την αρχή της επιμερισμένης διαχείρισης, η υλοποίηση της κοινοτικής βοήθειας με τη μορφή εγκεκριμένων επιχειρησιακών προγραμμάτων αποτελεί ευθύνη των κρατών μελών, σύμφωνα με τους εθνικούς στρατηγικούς στόχους και τις προτεραιότητες που έχουν καθοριστεί στον κανονισμό κοινών διατάξεων (ΕΕ) αριθ. 1303/2013<sup>(1)</sup>. Ένα έργο που εμπίπτει στους στόχους του σχετικού επιχειρησιακού προγράμματος αξιολογείται και επιλέγεται από τις εθνικές αρχές που είναι αρμόδιες για τη συγχρηματοδότηση από τα ευρωπαϊκά διαρθρωτικά και επενδυτικά ταμεία.

Στο εν λόγω πλαίσιο, τα κράτη μέλη δεν είναι υποχρεωμένα να αποστέλλουν στην Επιτροπή πληροφορίες (συμπεριλαμβανομένων των σχεδίων συμβάσεων) σχετικά με θέματα σχεδιασμού και εξέλιξης δημοσίων και ιδιωτικών έργων, εκτός εάν πρόκειται για συγχρηματοδοτούμενα μεγάλα έργα σύμφωνα με τα άρθρα 100 έως 103 του ανωτέρω κανονισμού. Ωστόσο, είναι σαφές ότι, σε κάθε περίπτωση, πρέπει να συμμορφώνονται με τη σχετική νομοθεσία της ΕΕ (όπως με τις οδηγίες 2011/92/ΕΕ<sup>(2)</sup> και 2001/42/ΕΚ<sup>(3)</sup>). Τα εθνικά δικαστήρια είναι κατά κύριο λόγο αρμόδια για την εκτίμηση μιας ενδεχόμενης παραβίασης του δικαίου της ΕΕ. Ωστόσο, η Επιτροπή θα διερευνήσει την ύπαρξη σαφών ενδείξεων παραβίασης.

<sup>(1)</sup> Περί καθορισμού κοινών διατάξεων για το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης, το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο, το Ταμείο Συνοχής, το Ευρωπαϊκό Γεωργικό Ταμείο Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Θάλασσας και Αλιείας και περί καθορισμού γενικών διατάξεων για το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης, το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινωνικό Ταμείο, το Ταμείο Συνοχής και το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Θάλασσας και Αλιείας, ΕΕ L 247 της 20.12.2013, σ. 320.

<sup>(2)</sup> Για την εκτίμηση των επιπτώσεων ορισμένων σχεδίων δημοσίων και ιδιωτικών έργων στο περιβάλλον, ΕΕ L 26 της 28.1.2012, σ. 1.

<sup>(3)</sup> Για την εκτίμηση των επιπτώσεων ορισμένων σχεδίων και προγραμμάτων στο περιβάλλον, ΕΕ L 197 της 21.7.2001, σ. 30.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004515/14  
to the Commission**

**Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**

(11 April 2014)

*Subject:* Contract for the sale of Hellinikon SA through the HRADF

On 31.3.2014, the HRADF announced the name of the bidder who had acquired 100% of Hellinikon SA shares. We note the following three points: 1) In the total area of 6 200 000 square metres, there are plans to create: a) an urban development project, b) development zones and c) a recreational metropolitan park. According to HRADF's announcement, the contractor's financial bid concerns only (a), i.e. the urban development project, even though the whole area is being ceded to that contractor. 2) The 'Integrated Hellinikon — Agios Kosmas Metropolitan Pole Development Project' falls under Directive 2001/42/EC, which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be drawn up before a project is adopted or the legislative process begins. However, the Greek Government, by adopting Law 4062/2012, has approved the plans for the area, the urban planning arrangements, building codes, etc., without an SEA being drawn up and approved beforehand, as required by Directive 2001/42/EC. 3) Under the Aarhus Convention, interested members of the public must be given the right to voice comments and opinions to the competent authority while all options are still open before the decision authorising the development is taken. This requirement is met by the drawing-up and publication of an SEA (Directive 2001/42/EC) prior to the adoption of a project. Given also that in its answer to a previous question (E-004347/2011), the Commission had stated that under Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 'a project for the realisation of a metropolitan park on the Hellinikon site could, in principle, be eligible for co-financing under one of the Operational programmes of the Greek National Strategic Reference Framework', will the Commission say:

1. Does the contract that HRADF is preparing to sign with the selected investor provide for the prohibition of funding from the NSRF or other EU programmes for the metropolitan park and recreation area and the development areas? Could the investor, if he so wished, seek co-financing under EU programmes?
2. Will it allow the contract to be signed with the selected contractor if basic EU directives, such as Directive 2001/42/EC, and the International Aarhus Convention are being flouted?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(14 July 2014)

In application of the principle of shared management, the implementation of Community assistance, taking the form of agreed operational programmes, is the responsibility of the Member States, in line with the national strategic goals and the priorities set up in the Common Provision Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 <sup>(1)</sup>. A project falling within the objectives of the relevant operational programme is appraised and selected by the competent national authorities for co-funding by the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Against this background, Member States are not obliged to send the Commission information (including draft contracts) on planning and development issues concerning public and private projects, unless these are co-funded Major Projects according to Articles 100-103 of the aforementioned Regulation. However, it is clear that in all cases the relevant EU legislation (such as Directives 2011/92/EU <sup>(2)</sup> and 2001/42/EC <sup>(3)</sup>) has to be respected. The national courts are primarily competent to assess whether there is a breach of EC law. However, the Commission will investigate if there is clear evidence of a breach.

<sup>(1)</sup> Laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, OJ L 247/320, 20.12.2013.

<sup>(2)</sup> On the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26/1, 28.1.2012.

<sup>(3)</sup> On the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197/30, 21.7.2001.

(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris P-004581/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Silvia-Adriana Țicău (S&D)**  
(11 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Invalidarea Directivei 2006/24/CE privind păstrarea datelor

Curtea de Justiție a Uniunii Europene a invalidat „Directiva 2006/24/CE privind păstrarea datelor generate sau prelucrate în legătură cu furnizarea serviciilor de comunicații electronice accesibile publicului sau de rețele de comunicații publice și de modificare a Directivei 2002/58/CE” prin decizia din 8 aprilie 2014.

În data de 30 iunie 2011 am adresat Comisiei următoarea întrebare:

„Întreb Comisia dacă are în vedere revizuirea Directivei 2006/24/CE privind păstrarea datelor, astfel încât la nivel european să fie aplicate condiții uniforme pentru păstrarea datelor, care să fie în conformitate atât cu prevederile constituționale ale statelor membre, cât și cu prevederile Cartei drepturilor fundamentale a Uniunii Europene, și care să nu aducă atingere exercitării dreptului la liberă circulație, dreptului la viață intimă, privată și de familie și să nu afecteze secretul corespondenței și libertatea de exprimare?”

În data de 12 august 2011 Comisia a răspuns: „Comisia a luat la cunoștință diferitele puncte de vedere privind posibilele căi de urmat. Comisia va analiza aceste căi de urmat în cadrul unei evaluări a impactului care va preceda o propunere de revizuire. Pe baza acestei evaluări, va fi prezentată o propunere în primăvara anului 2012”.

Până în acest moment Comisia nu a prezentat o propunere de revizuire a acestei directive. Având în vedere noul context în care Curtea de Justiție a UE a invalidat Directiva 2006/24/CE considerând că se produce o imixtiune amplă și deosebit de îngrijorătoare în drepturile fundamentale, în special cele cu privire la protejarea vieții private și la confidențialitatea datelor cu caracter personal, fără ca această imixtiune să se limiteze la ceea ce este strict necesar, aș dori să întreb Comisia ce măsuri are în vedere pentru a stopa rapid efectele negative ale acestei directive?

**Răspuns dat de dna Malmström în numele Comisiei**  
(25 iunie 2014)

Hotărârea Curții Europene de Justiție din 8 aprilie 2014 în cauzele conexe C-293/12 și C-594/12 a confirmat, în ansamblu, raportul de evaluare al Comisiei din 2011 privind punerea în aplicare a Directivei privind păstrarea datelor <sup>(1)</sup>. În același timp, Curtea a considerat că păstrarea datelor în temeiul directivei astfel cum este formulată nu afectează esența drepturilor fundamentale, servind, în condiții clar stabilite, un interes legitim și general, și anume combaterea formelor grave de criminalitate și a terorismului. Curtea a hotărât în această privință că Directiva privind păstrarea datelor nu îndeplinește principiul proporționalității și că ar fi trebuit să furnizeze mai multe garanții.

Problemele ridicate de Curte sunt foarte complexe și necesită o evaluare atentă a impactului pe care îl pot avea. În cadrul evaluării pe care o va întreprinde, Comisia va consulta toate părțile interesate relevante, astfel încât să țină seama de toate interesele legitime implicate. Comisia intenționează să aloce timpul necesar efectuării acestei evaluări. Pe această bază, Comisia va putea evalua, pe parcursul următoarelor luni, necesitatea unei noi propuneri legislative.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2011) 225 final.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-004581/14  
to the Commission**

**Silvia-Adriana Țicău (S&D)**

(11 April 2014)

*Subject:* Invalidity of Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of data

The Court of Justice of the European Union declared Directive 2006/24/EC on the retention of data generated or processed in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or of public communications networks and amending Directive 2002/58/EC to be invalid in its judgment of 8 April 2014.

On 30 June 2011, I asked the Commission the following question: ‘Will the Commission consider revising the data protection directive (2006/24/EC) in order to ensure the existence of uniform data protection conditions EU-wide, subject to those conditions being constitutional in the Member States and compatible with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, while also not involving any breach of the rights to freedom of movement, privacy and family life, the secrecy of correspondence and freedom of expression?’

On 12 August 2011, the Commission replied: ‘These consultations have informed the Commission of the various points of view on possible ways forward. The Commission will consider those ways forward as part of an impact assessment preceding a proposal for review. On the basis of this assessment a proposal will be presented in spring 2012.’

The Commission has not yet submitted a proposal for a revision of this directive. Bearing in mind the new situation arising from the Court’s decision to declare Directive 2006/24/EC invalid on the grounds that it entails a wide-ranging and particularly serious interference with the fundamental rights to respect for private life and to the protection of personal data, without that interference being limited to what is strictly necessary, what steps is the Commission planning to take in order to put a rapid stop to the negative effects of this directive?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission**

(25 June 2014)

The ruling of the European Court of Justice of 8 April 2014 on Joined cases C-293/12 and C-594/12 generally confirmed the Commission Evaluation Report of 2011 on the implementation of the Data Retention Directive <sup>(1)</sup>. At the same time, the Court considered that the data retention under the directive as such did not adversely affect the essence of fundamental rights, and it serves, under clear conditions, a legitimate and general interest, namely the fight against serious crime and terrorism. The Court decided in this respect that the Data Retention Directive does not meet the principle of proportionality and should have provided more safeguards.

The issues raised by the Court are very complex and require a careful assessment of their impacts. The Commission will consult in the framework of its assessment all relevant constituencies, and in a manner to take on board all legitimate interests involved. The Commission intends to take the necessary time to undertake this evaluation. On that basis, the Commission will be able to investigate in the coming months whether there is a need for a new legislative proposal.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2011) 225 final.



(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-004614/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Elena Băsescu (PPE)**  
(11 aprilie 2014)

**Subiect:** Medicamente contrafăcute

Se remarcă în continuare tendința efectuării unui număr mare de transporturi de produse despre care se crede că încalcă drepturile de proprietate intelectuală. O mare parte dintre acestea prezintă riscuri grave la adresa sănătății umane. Ultimul exemplu în acest sens este captura-record din portul Le Havre din Normandia, unde vameșii francezi au confiscat un total de 2,4 milioane de medicamente chinezești contrafăcute.

Vestea vine la câteva zile după ce Uniunea Europeană a lansat un proiect prin care va sprijini lupta împotriva producerii de medicamente contrafăcute și a traficului cu astfel de produse în Camerun, Ghana, Iordania, Maroc și Senegal.

Care sunt măsurile pe care le are în vedere Comisia în ceea ce privește importul de produse farmaceutice contrafăcute? Cum intenționează Comisia să sprijine statele membre în detectarea și analizarea unor astfel de produse și, mai ales, cum se poate implica Comisia pentru a crește gradul de sensibilizare cu privire la riscurile legate de aceste produse contrafăcute?

**Răspuns dat de dl Șemeta în numele Comisiei**  
(23 iunie 2014)

Recent, la nivel european s-a luat o serie de măsuri. Regulamentul (UE) nr. 608/2013 <sup>(1)</sup> stabilește condițiile și procedurile pentru intervenția autorităților vamale în cazul în care mărfuri suspectate de a încălca un drept de proprietate intelectuală (DPI) se află sub supraveghere vamală sau sub control vamal. Planul de acțiune vamală al UE pentru combaterea încălcărilor DPI pentru perioada 2013-2017 <sup>(2)</sup> solicită echiparea vămilor cu instrumentele necesare pentru abordarea principalelor tendințe în domeniul comerțului internațional cu mărfuri care încalcă drepturile de proprietate intelectuală. În 2013, Consiliul a desemnat de asemenea mărfurile contrafăcute ca fiind o prioritate în cadrul luptei împotriva formelor grave de criminalitate și a criminalității organizate pentru perioada 2014-2017.

În 2014, EFPIA <sup>(3)</sup> și GIRP <sup>(4)</sup> au devenit semnatare ale Memorandumului de înțelegere privind vânzarea pe internet a mărfurilor contrafăcute. Acest memorandum de înțelegere, încheiat sub auspiciile Comisiei, reunește titulari de drepturi și platforme pe internet importante din mai multe industrii, în lupta împotriva vânzării online de mărfuri contrafăcute.

În perioada 2012-2014, Observatorul <sup>(5)</sup> a organizat patru seminare de consolidare a cunoștințelor destinate agenților însărcinați cu aplicarea legii, pe diverse teme, inclusiv criminalitatea în domeniul farmaceutic <sup>(6)</sup>. În 2014, cu sprijinul Comisiei, Observatorul va continua să dezvolte un set cuprinzător de programe de formare pentru autoritățile statelor membre în ceea ce privește asigurarea respectării DPI.

În următorii ani, Directiva privind medicamentele falsificate <sup>(7)</sup> va introduce măsuri care să permită verificarea autenticității medicamentelor și identificarea comercianților cu amănuntul de medicamente și a farmaciilor online care funcționează legal.

În fine, Comisia contribuie la finanțarea Rețelei europene a laboratoarelor oficiale pentru controlul medicamentelor, care permite statelor membre să testeze calitatea și autenticitatea medicamentelor de pe piața UE independent de producători.

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulamentul (UE) nr. 608/2013 al Parlamentului European și al Consiliului din 12 iunie 2013 privind asigurarea respectării drepturilor de proprietate intelectuală de către autoritățile vamale și de abrogare a Regulamentului (CE) nr. 15/2003 al Consiliului (JO L 181, 29.6.2013, p. 15).

<sup>(2)</sup> Rezoluția Consiliului (2013/C 80/01) — JO L C80/1 din 19.3.2013.

<sup>(3)</sup> Federația europeană a industriei și asociațiilor farmaceutice.

<sup>(4)</sup> Asociația europeană a angrosiștilor care comercializează game complete de medicamente.

<sup>(5)</sup> Observatorul european al încălcărilor drepturilor de proprietate intelectuală (<https://oami.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/web/observatory/home>).

<sup>(6)</sup> Raport disponibil la adresa:  
[https://oami.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document\\_library/observatory/documents/Knowledge-building-events/combating\\_pharmacrine\\_26062013\\_en.pdf](https://oami.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document_library/observatory/documents/Knowledge-building-events/combating_pharmacrine_26062013_en.pdf)

<sup>(7)</sup> Directiva 2011/62/UE a Parlamentului European și a Consiliului de modificare a Directivei 2001/83/CE în ceea ce privește prevenirea pătrunderii medicamentelor falsificate în lanțul legal de aprovizionare, JO L 174, 1.7.2011, p. 74.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004614/14**  
**to the Commission**  
**Elena Băsescu (PPE)**  
(11 April 2014)

*Subject:* Counterfeit medicines

Transport of products that are believed to infringe intellectual property rights continues to be common. A considerable portion of these products poses serious risks to human health. The latest example in this regard is the record seizure at Le Havre harbour in Normandy, where French customs officers confiscated a total amount of 2.4 million Chinese counterfeit medicines.

The news came a few days after the European Union launched a project to support the fight against the manufacture of counterfeit medicines and the trafficking of such products in Cameroon, Ghana, Jordan, Morocco and Senegal.

What measures does the Commission envisage regarding the import of counterfeit pharmaceuticals? How does the Commission intend to support Member States in detecting and analysing such products and, in particular, how can the Commission become involved in raising awareness with respect to the risks related to these counterfeit products?

**Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission**  
(23 June 2014)

A series of measures were taken recently at European level. Regulation (EU) No 608/2013 <sup>(1)</sup> sets out the conditions and procedures for action by customs where goods suspected of infringing an intellectual property right are under customs supervision or customs control. The EU Customs Action Plan to combat IPR infringements for the years 2013 to 2017 <sup>(2)</sup> calls for providing customs with the necessary tools to address major trends in the international trade of goods infringing intellectual property rights. In 2013, the Council also designated counterfeit goods as a priority for the fight against serious and organised crime for 2014-2017.

EFPIA <sup>(3)</sup> and GIRP <sup>(4)</sup> became in 2014 signatories of the memorandum of understanding on the Sale of Counterfeit Goods via the Internet. This MoU, concluded under the auspices of the Commission, brings together major Internet platforms and right holders from several industries in the fight against online sale of counterfeit goods.

In 2012 — 2014, the Observatory <sup>(5)</sup> held four knowledge-building seminars for enforcement officers on various issues, including on pharma crime <sup>(6)</sup>. In 2014, with the support of the Commission, the Observatory will continue to develop a comprehensive set of sectoral IP enforcement training programmes for Member State authorities.

In the next years, the Falsified Medicines Directive <sup>(7)</sup> will introduce measures allowing the verification of medicine authenticity and the identification of legally operating online pharmacies and retailers of medicines.

Finally, the Commission contributes to funding the European Network of Official Medicine Control Laboratories, which allows Member States to test the quality and authenticity of medicines on the EU market independently from manufacturers.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 608/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12.6.2013 concerning customs enforcement of intellectual property rights (OJ L 181, 29.6.2013, p. 15).

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Resolution (2013/C 80/01) — OJ C 80/1 of 19.3.2013.

<sup>(3)</sup> The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations.

<sup>(4)</sup> The European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers.

<sup>(5)</sup> European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights (<https://oami.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/web/observatory/home>).

<sup>(6)</sup> Report available at: [https://oami.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document\\_library/observatory/documents/Knowledge-building-events/combating\\_pharmacrim\\_26062013\\_en.pdf](https://oami.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document_library/observatory/documents/Knowledge-building-events/combating_pharmacrim_26062013_en.pdf)

<sup>(7)</sup> Directive 2011/62/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/83/EC as regards the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of falsified medicinal products, OJ L 174, 1.7.2011, p.74.

(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004647/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(14 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Livelli ta' konċentrazzjoni tal-ożonu

Skont l-Aġenzija Ewropea għall-Ambjent, il-konċentrazzjonijiet tal-ożonu fil-livell tal-art qabżu l-limiti legali f'kull Stat Membru u f'bosta siti ta' kejl individwali fl-2013.

Il-Kummissjoni tista' tiddikjara kif dawn ir-riżultati jaffettwaw il-pakkett dwar il-Politika għall-Arja Nadifa introdott reċentement, biex jitnaqqsu l-emissjonijiet, inklużi dawk ta' prekursori tal-ożonu?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Potočnik f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(26 ta' Ġunju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni tikkonferma l-htieġa għal azzjoni kkoordinata fil-livell tal-UE biex tindirizza eċċessi persistenti ta' valuri fil-mira tal-UE għall-ożonu fil-livell tal-art tal-UE stabbiliti fid-Direttiva 2008/50/UE. <sup>(1)</sup>

Sabiex jintlahqu l-valuri fil-mira stabbiliti għall-ożonu, l-emissjonijiet tal-komposti organiċi volatili prekursori (VOC) u l-ossidi tan-nitroġenu (NOx) ikollhom jitnaqqsu fir-reġjun Ewropew kollu, kif ukoll ikollu jkun hemm tnaqqis qawwi ta' emissjonijiet ta' metan, prekursor qawwi tal-ożonu fuq skala emisferika li jikkontribwixxi bil-kbir għal livelli ta' bażi dejjem akbar ta' ożonu.

Il-Kummissjoni għalhekk inkludiet fil-Pakkett tal-Politika għall-Arja Nadifa <sup>(2)</sup> proposta biex tiġi rratifikata l-emenda tal— 2012 għall-Protokoll ta' Gothenburg skont il-Konvenzjoni LRTAP li se torbot u timpenja lill-Partijiet tal-Konvenzjoni fir-reġjun EECCA. Il-pakkett jinkludi wkoll impenji godda għat-tnaqqis tal-emissjonijiet tal-prekursori tal-ożonu i.e VOC b' 50 %, u NOx b' 69 %, kif ukoll għall-metan b' 33 % għall-2030 meta mqabbel mal-2005.

<sup>(1)</sup> ĠU L152, 11.6.2008, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean\\_air\\_policy.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean_air_policy.htm)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004647/14  
to the Commission  
Roberta Metsola (PPE)  
(14 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Ozone concentration levels

Ground-level ozone concentrations exceeded legal limits in every Member State and at many individual measurement sites in 2013, according to the European Environment Agency.

Can the Commission state how these results affect the recently introduced Clean Air Policy package to reduce emissions, including those of ozone precursors?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission  
(26 June 2014)**

The Commission confirms the need for EU-coordinated action to address the persistent exceedances of EU target values for ground-level ozone set out in Directive 2008/50/EU. <sup>(1)</sup>

In order to meet the set ozone target values the precursors volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions would have to be reduced in the entire European region, as well as deep emission cuts of methane emissions, a potent ozone precursor on the hemispheric scale largely contributing to increased background levels of ozone.

The Commission therefore included in the Clean Air Policy Package <sup>(2)</sup> a proposal to ratify the 2012 amendment to the Gothenburg Protocol under the LRTAP Convention which will engage and commit Convention Parties in the EECCA region. The package also includes new emission reduction commitments for the ozone precursors i.e. VOC by 50%, and NO<sub>x</sub> by 69%, as well as for methane by 33% for 2030 compared to 2005.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 152, 11.6.2008.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean\\_air\\_policy.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean_air_policy.htm)

(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004684/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Marlene Mizzi (S&D)**  
(15 ta' April 2014)

*Suġġett:* Politika aktar intelligenti dwar il-viżi

Il-Kummissjoni tat bidu għal “politika aktar intelligenti dwar il-viżi”, li definittivament se tgħin lis-settur tat-turiżmu.

Il-Kummissjoni għandha informazzjoni disponibbli dwar l-impatt pożittiv mistenni f'termini ta' ammont ta' turisti u ta' nfiq?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sinjura Malmström fisem il-Kummissjoni**  
(10 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni vvalutat l-impatti ekonomiċi tal-proposti fil-Pakkett dwar il-Viża riċenti u ssostranzjathom b'fatti u figuri. Studju kkummissjonat mill-Kummissjoni <sup>(1)</sup> (Studju tal-Impatt Ekonomiku) u r-rapport tal-Valutazzjoni tal-Impatt <sup>(2)</sup> mal-proposti (ara b'mod partikolari l-Anness VIII) jinkludu stimi rigward vjaġġaturi “addizzjonali” u nfiq relatat mal-facilitazzjoni proċedurali tal-viża.

L-Istudju tal-Impatt Ekonomiku stima li fl-2012 numru totali ta' 6.6 miljun vjaġġatur potenzjali mis-sitt swieq fil-mira <sup>(3)</sup> li eżamina setgħu kienu “mitlufa” minhabba l-proċeduri diffiċli tal-viżi. L-istudju juri wkoll li regoli tal-viża aktar flessibbli u aċċessibbli jistgħu jwasslu għal żieda fil-vjaġġi lejn iż-żona Schengen ta' bejn 30% u 60% minn dawn is-sitt pajjiżi. Dan jista' jfisser sa EUR 130 biljun fi nfiq totali dirett fuq hames snin (fuq l-akkomodazzjoni, l-ikel u x-xorb, it-trasport, divertiment, xiri, eċċ.), li jistgħu jissarrfu f'madwar 1.3 miljun impjeg fit-turiżmu u setturi relatati.

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/files/visas\\_study\\_2013/final\\_report\\_\\_visa\\_facilitation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/files/visas_study_2013/final_report__visa_facilitation_en.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/ia\\_carried\\_out/docs/ia\\_2014/swd\\_2014\\_0068\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/ia_carried_out/docs/ia_2014/swd_2014_0068_en.pdf)

<sup>(3)</sup> Iċ-Ċina, l-Indja, ir-Russja, l-Arabja Sawdija, l-Afrika t'Isfel u l-Ukraina.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004684/14  
to the Commission**

**Marlene Mizzi (S&D)**

(15 April 2014)

*Subject:* Smarter visa policy

The Commission has launched a 'smarter visa policy', which will definitely help the tourist sector.

Does the Commission have information available on the expected positive impact in terms of tourist numbers and spending?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission**

(10 July 2014)

The Commission assessed the economic impacts of the proposals in the recent Visa Package and substantiated them with facts and figures. A study commissioned by the Commission <sup>(1)</sup> (Economic Impact Study) and the impact assessment report <sup>(2)</sup> accompanying the proposals (cf. Annex VIII in particular) contain estimates as regards 'additional' travellers and spending related to procedural visa facilitations.

The Economic Impact Study estimated that in 2012 a total number of 6.6 million potential travellers from the six target markets <sup>(3)</sup> which it examined may have been 'lost' due to cumbersome visa procedures. It also showed that more flexible and accessible visa rules could lead to an increase in trips to the Schengen area of between 30% and 60% from these six countries. This could mean up to EUR 130 billion in total direct spending over five years (in accommodation, food and drink, transport, entertainment, shopping, etc.), and could translate into some 1.3 million jobs in tourism and related sectors.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/files/visas\\_study\\_2013/final\\_report\\_\\_visa\\_facilitation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/files/visas_study_2013/final_report__visa_facilitation_en.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/ia\\_carried\\_out/docs/ia\\_2014/swd\\_2014\\_0068\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/ia_carried_out/docs/ia_2014/swd_2014_0068_en.pdf)

<sup>(3)</sup> China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Ukraine.

(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal twegħiba bil-miktub E-004701/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(15 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Iċ-ċiberkriminalità u t-tfal

L-internet u t-teknoloġiji onlajn kienu previsti u ddisinjati bhala għodod tal-komunikazzjoni għall-akkademiċi u r-riċerkaturi; madankollu, bhala riżultat tal-aċċess miżjud tagħhom — b'mod partikolari permezz tal-midja soċjali — fid-djar, l-iskejjel, in-negozji u l-amministrazzjonijiet pubbliċi, it-tfal qed isiru aktar u aktar utenti attivi ta' dawn it-teknoloġiji onlajn.

Fid-dawl tal-Konvenzjoni taċ-Ċiberkriminalità tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, x'inhi tagħmel il-Kummissjoni biex tarmonizza l-leġiżlazzjoni mal-Istati Membri?

Il-Kummissjoni qieghda tippjana li żżid is-sensibilizzazzjoni fost iż-żgħażaġh rigward il-valur tal-privatezza?

Hemm xi pjanijiet futuri għall-Kummissjoni biex tohloq aktar programmi simili għal Internet Aktar Sikur għat-Tfal, li jheggu l-kooperazzjoni internazzjonali bhala parti integrali mit-trattament taċ-ċiberkriminalità u ż-żieda tas-sensibilizzazzjoni sabiex jiġu protetti t-tfal onlajn?

**Twegħiba mogħtija mis-Sinjura Malmström f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(9 ta' Lulju 2014)

Biex tgħin fl-implimentazzjoni tal-Konvenzjoni dwar iċ-Ċiberkriminalità tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, il-Kummissjoni pproponiet leġiżlazzjoni li tinkludi bosta mir-regoli sostantivi tagħha, jiġifieri d-Direttiva 2013/40/UE dwar attakki kontra s-sistemi tal-informazzjoni <sup>(1)</sup> li giet adottata mill-Parlament Ewropew u mill-Kunsill f'Awwissu 2013. L-Istati Membri issa għandhom sentejn biex jimplementaw id-dispożizzjonijiet fil-liġijiet nazzjonali tagħhom. Id-Direttiva tarmonizza l-leġiżlazzjoni kriminali fl-Istati Membri fil-qasam taċ-ċiberkriminalità, inkluż l-aċċess illegali għal sistemi tal-informazzjoni, l-interferenza illegali fis-sistema u d-dejta u l-interċettazzjoni illegali. Barra minn hekk, tippenalizza l-produzzjoni, il-bejgħ, l-akkwist għall-użu, l-importazzjoni u d-distribuzzjoni ta' għodod użati biex jitwettqu dawn ir-reati, bħal "botnets", networks ta' kompjuters infettati użati miċ-ċiberkriminali biex jikkommettu attakki.

Barra minn hekk, il-Kummissjoni tippromwovi r-ratifika tal-Konvenzjoni kemm fi hdan, kif ukoll barra mill-UE, bħal pereżempju fl-Istrateġija tagħha tas-Sigurtà Ċibernetika għall-Unjoni Ewropea 2013 <sup>(2)</sup>.

Il-Programm Internet Iktar Sikur ġie integrat fil-Facilità Nikkollegaw l-Ewropa fejn qed jitqies bhala "proġett ta' interess komuni" fis-settur tat-telekomunikazzjonijiet <sup>(3)</sup>. Il-holqien ta' sensibilizzazzjoni dwar kwistjonijiet bħall-valur tal-privatezza se jkompli jkun fil-qalba tal-istrateġija tal-protezzjoni u l-abilitazzjoni.

<sup>(1)</sup> Id-Direttiva 2013/40/UE tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill tat-12 ta' Awwissu 2013 dwar attakki kontra s-sistemi tal-informazzjoni u li tissostitwixxi d-Deċiżjoni Qafas tal-Kunsill 2005/222/ĠAI, ĠU L 218, 14/08/2013, p. 8-14.

<sup>(2)</sup> JOIN(2013) 1 finali tas-7 ta' Frar 2013.

<sup>(3)</sup> Ir-Regolament (UE) Nru 1316/2013 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill tal-11 ta' Diċembru 2013 li jistabbilixxi l-Facilità Nikkollegaw l-Ewropa, li jemenda r-Regolament (UE) Nru 913/2010 u jhassar ir-Regolamenti (KE) Nru 680/2007 u (KE) Nru 67/2010, ĠU L 348/129, 20.12.2013.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004701/14  
to the Commission  
Roberta Metsola (PPE)  
(15 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Cybercrime and children

The Internet and online technologies were envisaged and designed as communication tools for academics and researchers; however, as a result of their increased access — in particular through social media — in homes, schools, businesses and public administrations, children are increasingly becoming active users of these online technologies.

In the light of the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention, what is the Commission doing to harmonise legislation across the Member States?

Is the Commission planning to raise awareness among young people regarding the value of privacy?

Are there any future plans for the Commission to create further programmes similar to Safer Internet for Children, which encourage international cooperation as an integral part of dealing with cybercrime and raising awareness in order to protect children online?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission  
(9 July 2014)**

To help implement the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention, the Commission has proposed legislation comprising many of its substantive rules, namely the directive 2013/40/EU on attacks against information systems <sup>(1)</sup> which was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in August 2013. Member States now have two years to implement its provisions in their national legislation. The directive harmonises criminal legislation in the Member States in the area of cybercrime, including illegal access to information systems, illegal system and data interference and illegal interception. In addition, it penalises the production, sale, procurement for use, import and distribution of tools used for committing these offences, such as 'botnets', networks of infected computers used by cybercriminals to commit attacks.

Furthermore, the Commission promotes ratification of the Convention both within and outside the EU, as for example in its 2013 Cybersecurity Strategy for the European Union. <sup>(2)</sup>

The Safer Internet programme has been integrated into the Connecting Europe Facility where it is regarded as a 'project of common interest' in the telecommunications sector. <sup>(3)</sup> Raising awareness on issues such as the value of privacy will continue being at the heart of the protection and empowerment strategy.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2013/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12.8.2013 on attacks against information systems and replacing Council Framework Decision 2005/222/JHA OJ L 218, 14.8.2013, p. 8-14.

<sup>(2)</sup> JOIN(2013) 1 final of 7.2.2013.

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11.12.2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010, OJ L 348/129, 20.12.2013.



(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004702/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(15 ta' April 2014)

*Suġġett:* Ismijiet ta' dominji

Intbagħtu bosta emails minn kumpaniji ta' pajjiżi terzi lil kumpaniji Ewropej fejn intqal li l-użu tal-ismijiet ta' dominji ta' dawn tal-aħhar kien imur kontra l-ligijiet u r-regolamenti tal-pajjiżi terzi.

Il-Kummissjoni għandha informazzjoni dwar kwalunkwe sistema disponibbli biex titratta sitwazzjonijiet simili?

Il-Kummissjoni qed tikkunsidra li tiehu azzjoni biex tiproteġi lil kumpaniji Ewropej kontra l-ksur ta' privattivi/dominju minn kumpaniji ta' pajjiżi terzi?

Il-Kummissjoni għandha informazzjoni dwar jekk Stati Membri oħrajn irrappurtawx sitwazzjonijiet simili għal dawn?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sinjura Kroes f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(9 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni Ewropea ma tafx bil-messaġġi mingħand kumpaniji ta' pajjiżi terzi lill-kumpaniji Ewropej imsemmija. Fil-każ li jqum tali tilwim, l-ewwel nett għandu jkun kwistjoni għall-kumpaniji nnifishom, u prezumibbilment jista' jitressaq quddiem il-Qorti fil-każ li xi wahda mill-partijiet thoss li qed isir ksur ta' kwalunkwe ligi applikabbli.

B'mod ġenerali, l-użu abbużiv tal-ismijiet tad-dominju jista' jammonta għal ksur tad-drittijiet tal-proprjetà intellettwali bħal marki kummerċjali jew indikazzjonijiet ġeografici, li s-sidien tad-drittijiet Ewropej jistgħu jevitaw abbażi tal-leġiżlazzjoni rilevanti tal-UE u/jew nazzjonali. Madankollu, mingħajr aktar informazzjoni, il-Kummissjoni ma tistax tikkummenta aktar.

Fir-rigward tal-protezzjoni tad-dominju u ta' ksur li jaffettwa lill-kumpaniji Ewropej, il-Kummissjoni Ewropea u l-Istati Membri tal-UE jagħtu pariri u jinkoraġġixxu lill-Korporazzjoni tal-Internet dwar l-ismijiet u n-Numri Assenjati (ICANN), u lir-registri u r-registraturi affiljati tagħha, sabiex jistabbilixxu mekkaniżmi li jevitaw l-użu abbużiv ta' ismijiet tad-dominju. Dawn jinkludu mekkaniżmi alternattivi ta' Rizoluzzjoni tat-Tilwim u stragudizzjarji u l-possibbiltà f'ċerti każijiet li d-detenturi tad-drittijiet jitolbu l-ismijiet tad-dominju qabel ma jirrikorru għas-suq ġenerali.

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-004702/14  
to the Commission**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

*(15 April 2014)*

*Subject:* Domain names

Several e-mails from third-country companies have been sent to European companies stating that their use of domain names is contrary to third-country laws and regulations.

Does the Commission have information on any systems available to deal with these situations?

Is the Commission considering taking action to protect European companies against patent/domain violations by third-country companies?

Does the Commission have information on whether other Member States have reported any similar situations?

**Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission**

*(9 July 2014)*

The European Commission is not aware of the messages from third country companies to European companies referred to. If such disputes arise, they would in the first instance be a matter for the companies themselves, and may presumably be brought to court should either party feel that any applicable law is being violated.

In general, abusive use of domain names can amount to violations of IP rights such as trade marks or geographical indications, which European right owners can prevent on the basis of the relevant EU and/or national legislation. Without more detailed information, however, the Commission cannot comment further.

As regards the protection of domain violations affecting the European companies, European Commission and the EU Member States advise and encourage the 'Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' (ICANN), and its affiliated registries and registrars, to put in place mechanisms to prevent the abusive use of domain names. These include extra-judicial alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms and the possibility in some case for rights holders to claim domain names before they go to the general market.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004707/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(15 ta' April 2014)

Suġġett: Il-fondi tal-UE għall-kunsilli lokali

Il-Kummissjoni tista' tagħti informazzjoni dwar il-programmi ta' finanzjament disponibbli għall-kunsilli lokali għall-perjodu ta' programmazzjoni 2104-2020?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Hahn fisem il-Kummissjoni**  
(4 ta' Lulju 2014)

Kif stipulat fir-Regolament (UE) Nru 1303/2013, li jstabbilixxi dispożizzjonijiet komuni dwar il-Fondi Ewropej Strutturali u ta' Investiment <sup>(1)</sup>, il-Fond Ewropew għall-Iżvilupp Reġjonali, il-Fond Soċjali Ewropew, il-Fond ta' Koeżjoni, il-Fond Agrikolu Ewropew għall-Iżvilupp Rurali u l-Fond Ewropew Marittimu u tas-Sajd kollha jistgħu jipprovdu sostenn fl-2014-2020 għal proġetti promossi mill-kunsilli lokali fil-qafas ta' programmi flivell nazzjonali jew reġjonali. Il-proġetti għandhom jagħtu kontribut lejn il-kontribuzzjoni tal-programmi għall-Istrateġija Ewropa 2020 għal tkabbir intelliġenti, sostenibbli u inkluziv. Attwalment qed issir diskussjoni dwar il-programmi bejn il-Kummissjoni u l-Istati Membri.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2013.347.01.0320.01.ENG](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2013.347.01.0320.01.ENG)

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-004707/14  
to the Commission  
Roberta Metsola (PPE)  
(15 April 2014)**

*Subject:* EU funding for local councils

Can the Commission provide information on the funding programmes available for local councils under the 2014-2020 programming period?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission  
(4 July 2014)**

As provided for in Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, laying down common provisions on the European Structural and Investment Funds <sup>(1)</sup>, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund can all provide support in 2014-2020 to projects promoted by local councils in the framework of programmes at national or regional level. Projects should contribute towards programmes' contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The programmes are currently under discussion between the Commission and the Member States.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2013.347.01.0320.01.ENG](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2013.347.01.0320.01.ENG)

(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-004784/14**  
**à la Commission**  
**Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)**  
(15 avril 2014)

*Objet:* Cadre législatif pour améliorer la gestion des déchets dans l'Union européenne

L'Union européenne ambitionne de porter le taux de recyclage des déchets à 50 % d'ici 2020.

Malheureusement, le déficit en matière de gestion des déchets montre que dans nombre de régions européennes, l'ensevelissement des déchets et l'incinération sont encore des pratiques majoritaires. Ces dernières provoquent des rejets toxiques, la contamination des nappes phréatiques et de l'atmosphère. Les citoyens et les industries se retrouvent, en outre, à payer des sommes colossales pour un système qui ne fonctionne pas.

La Commission doit prochainement rendre une évaluation sur la législation européenne en matière de gestion des déchets. La Commission peut-elle indiquer la date de publication de cette évaluation?

L'augmentation des pratiques frauduleuses dans le domaine de la gestion des déchets n'appelle-t-elle pas à l'adoption rapide d'un cadre législatif européen stable? Ce dernier n'est-il pas le seul moyen de garantir une concurrence juste et non faussée, un contrôle efficace et les mêmes règles du jeu pour tous, grâce à une mise en œuvre réelle des mesures, y compris des sanctions?

**Réponse commune donnée par M. Potočnik au nom de la Commission**  
(4 juillet 2014)

La Commission procède actuellement à un réexamen des objectifs contenus dans la législation européenne dans le domaine des déchets. Dans ce contexte, une analyse d'impact a été réalisée et sera publiée dès que la nouvelle proposition aura été adoptée par la Commission.

La révision devrait aboutir à des objectifs à moyen terme clairs et pérennes pour l'UE, afin d'assurer la stabilité du cadre législatif européen. Ces objectifs devraient être alignés sur la hiérarchie des déchets établie par l'UE et sur les objectifs définis dans le 7<sup>e</sup> programme d'action pour l'environnement, c'est-à-dire la priorité donnée à la prévention des déchets, puis à la réutilisation et au recyclage, et à la limitation de l'incinération aux déchets non recyclables ainsi qu'à la suppression progressive de la mise en décharge. La Commission présentera également dans la proposition envisagée des mesures contribuant à garantir la mise en œuvre complète des objectifs présents et futurs en matière de déchets.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004731/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(15 ta' April 2014)

*Suġġett:* Miri ta' riċiklaġġ

Il-Parlament minn dejjem talab b'mod insistenti biex l-UE tiegħu azzjoni aktar stretta biex tnaqqas l-ammont tal-iskart tal-plastik fl-ambjent. L-Ewropa hija t-tieni l-akbar produttur tal-plastik fid-dinja, iżda kuart minnu biss jiġi riċiklat, il-bqija jiġi incinerat jew jintrema fil-miżbljet jew fl-oċeani. Bhalissa l-Kummissjoni qed tagħmel rieżami tal-politika tagħha dwar l-iskart, jiġifieri d-Direttiva dwar ir-Rimi ta' Skart f'Terraferma, id-Direttiva dwar l-Imballaġġ u d-Direttiva Qafas dwar l-Iskart.

Għal dan l-għan, il-Kummissjoni qiegħda tipprevedi li r-ieżami attwali tal-politika dwar l-iskart se jinkludi miri ta' riċiklaġġ speċifiċi għal kull Stat Membru? Barra minn hekk, x'inhu l-pjan tal-Kummissjoni biex tiżgura li sal-2020 ma jintremix aktar skart żejjed fil-miżbljet, filwaqt li tiskoraġġixxi wkoll l-incinerazzjoni tal-iskart?

**Tweġiba konġunta mogħtija mis-Sur Potočnik f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(4 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni bhalissa qed twettaq reviżjoni tal-miri li jinsabu fil-legiżlazzjoni tal-UE dwar l-iskart. F'dan il-kuntest, thejjiet valutazzjoni tal-impatt li se tiġi ppubblikata malli l-Kummissjoni tadotta l-proposta ġdida.

Biex tiġi żgurata l-istabbiltà tal-qafas legiżlattiv Ewropew, ir-reviżjoni għandha tirriżulta f'miri għaž-żmien medju u stabbli għall-UE. Dawn il-miri għandhom ikunu allinjati mal-gerarkija tal-iskart tal-UE u mal-oġettivi definiti fis-seba' Programm ta' Azzjoni Ambjentali, jiġifieri għandha tingħata prijorità lill-prevenzjoni tal-iskart, l-użu mill-ġdid u r-riċiklaġġ, u l-incinerazzjoni għandha tkun limitata għal skart mhux riċiklabbli filwaqt li r-rimi fil-miżbljet jiġi eliminat gradwalment. Bħala parti mill-proposta pplanata tagħha, il-Kummissjoni se tipproponi wkoll miżuri biex jgħinu jiżguraw l-implimentazzjoni shiha tal-miri għall-iskart eżistenti u futuri.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004731/14  
to the Commission  
Roberta Metsola (PPE)  
(15 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Recycling targets

Parliament has always been vociferous in calling for much tougher action from the EU to reduce the amount of plastic waste in the environment. Europe is the world's second-biggest producer of plastic, but only a quarter of it is recycled, the rest being incinerated or ending up in landfill sites or the oceans. The Commission is currently reviewing its policy on waste, namely the Landfill Directive, the Packaging Directive and the Waste Framework Directive.

To this end, does the Commission envisage that the current review of waste policy will include specific recycling targets for each Member State? Moreover, what is the Commission's plan to ensure that by 2020 no more unnecessary waste is sent to landfill sites, while also discouraging the incineration of waste?

**Question for written answer E-004784/14  
to the Commission  
Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)  
(15 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Legislative framework for improving waste management in the EU

The EU is aiming to increase the waste recycling rate to 50% by 2020.

Unfortunately, in many parts of Europe most waste is still buried or incinerated. This causes toxic discharges and contamination of groundwater and the atmosphere. Furthermore, individuals and industries are having to pay enormous sums of money for a system which does not work.

The Commission should shortly submit an assessment of European waste management legislation. When will that assessment be published?

Does the Commission not agree that the increase in fraudulent practices in waste management calls for a stable European legislative framework to be adopted without delay? Would that not be the only way of ensuring fair and undistorted competition, effective control and a level playing field for everyone through the proper implementation of the measures adopted, including sanctions?

**Joint answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission  
(4 July 2014)**

The Commission is currently conducting a review of the targets contained in EU waste legislation. In that context, an impact assessment has been prepared and will be published as soon as the new proposal is adopted by the Commission.

To ensure the stability of the European legislative framework, the review should result in clear and stable midterm targets for the EU. These targets should be aligned with the EU waste hierarchy and to the objectives defined in the 7th Environment Action Programme, i.e. giving priority to waste prevention, then re-use and recycling, and limiting incineration to not recyclable waste while progressively phasing out landfilling. As part of its planned proposal, the Commission will also propose measures to help ensure full implementation of existing and future waste targets.

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(българска версия)

**Въпрос с искане за писмен отговор E-004776/14**

до Комисията

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) и Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**

(15 април 2014 г.)

Относно: Възпалително заболяване на червата

Възпалителното заболяване на червата е хронична болест, която засяга от 2,5 до 3 милиона души в Европа (5,5 до 7 милиона в целия свят), като се очаква броят им да продължи да нараства. Възпалителното заболяване на червата може да настъпи на всяка възраст, но често се диагностицира особено сред децата и младежите. Симптомите на болестта включват диария, ректално кървене, спазми, умора, загуба на тегло и, по-специално при децата, забавяне на растежа и на началото на пубертета. Симптомите често водят до хоспитализиране, като при 85 % от болните от възпалително заболяване на червата в Европа се е наложило специално лечение в болница през последните пет години. Освен това възпалителното заболяване на червата може да причини сериозни щети на храносмилателния тракт, като при поне от половината от всички болни се налага хирургична операция.

Въпреки тези тревожни факти равнището на осведоменост относно възпалителното заболяване на червата е доста ниско сред гражданите на ЕС, което допринася за социалната изолация, намаляване на посещаването на училище и намалено участие на пазара на труда сред болните от това заболяване.

Проучването IMPACT от 2010—2011 г. показва, че приблизително 25 % от страдащите от възпалително заболяване на червата в Европа са подложени на някакъв вид дискриминация. Друга тревожна констатация в проучването е равнището на участие на пазара на труда на страдащите от възпалително заболяване на червата, като резултатите показват, че болестта води до чести отсъствия от работа и че 44 % от участниците в него дори са загубили работата си или са били принудени да я напуснат поради заболяването. Освен че представлява проблем за болните от възпалително заболяване на червата и за техните семейства, слабото участие на пазара на труда и високите разходи за лечение също поставят значителна икономическа тежест върху европейското общество като цяло. С проучването, финансирано от Седмата рамкова програма и озаглавено „Естеството на възпалителното заболяване на червата“, беше установено, че общите годишни разходи за възпалителното заболяване на червата надхвърлят 25 милиарда евро само в Европа.

1. Като се има предвид, че причините за възпалителното заболяване на червата и лечението за него са все още неизвестни и че разходите за лечение представляват тежко бреме за националните здравни системи и водят до значителни загуби по отношение на производителността, Комисията ще препоръча ли научни изследвания — по-специално фармацевтични, екологични и ориентирани към храненето научни изследвания — относно възпалителното заболяване на червата в рамките на „Хоризонт 2020“, които биха допринесли за справяне с това научно предизвикателство?
2. По отношение на политиката, възнамерява ли Комисията да постави по-голям акцент върху възпалителното заболяване на червата в контекста на стратегиите, насочени към хроничните заболявания, като установените по време на процеса на анализ на хроничните болести?
3. По какъв начин възнамерява Комисията да подпомогне държавите членки за подобряване на живота на болните от възпалително заболяване на червата, по-специално по отношение на недискриминацията, подобряването на условията на труд, управлението на стреса и достъпа до домашно обучение?

**Отговор, даден от г-жа Мойра Гейгън-Куин от името на Комисията**

(19 юни 2014 г.)

1. Комисията е наясно, че възпалителното заболяване на червата (IBD) представлява тежко бреме в световен мащаб.

В рамките на Седмата рамкова програма (7РП) <sup>(1)</sup> са предвидени над 63 млн. евро за подпомагане на научните изследвания в областта на IBD. Наред с другото проектите са насочени към проучване на ролята на микрочревната флора за развитието на болестта и определяне на терапевтични цели.

Чрез своето обществено предизвикателство „Здравеопазване, демографски промени и благосъстояние“ Рамковата програма на ЕС за научни изследвания и иновации (2014—2020 г.) — „Хоризонт 2020“ <sup>(2)</sup>, ще осигури допълнителни възможности за подпомагане на изследванията в областта на IBD. Информация за съществуващите възможности за финансиране е поместена в портала за участници в областта на научните изследвания и иновациите <sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Седма рамкова програма за научни изследвания, технологично развитие и демонстрационни дейности (7РП, 2007–2013 г.).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>



2. На този етап Комисията не възнамерява да поставя по-голям акцент върху никое основно хронично заболяване, но продължава да провежда обсъждания относно хроничните заболявания в съответствие с насоките, представени в заключенията от провела се през април 2014 г. Среща на високо равнище относно хроничните заболявания <sup>(4)</sup>.

3. С Директива 2000/78/ЕО <sup>(5)</sup> се забранява дискриминацията на работното място, която се основава на увреждане. До момента Съдът на ЕС не е гледал дело, засягащо IVD, но е постановил, че понятието „увреждане“ може да обхваща състояние, причинено от заболяване, за което медицински е установено, че е лечимо или нелечимо при определени условия <sup>(6)</sup>.

По отношение на образованието държавите членки носят пълна отговорност за съдържанието на учебния процес и организацията на образователните системи и тяхното културно и езиково разнообразие, включително за определянето на правила относно задължителното посещение на училище. В някои държави родителите имат право по закон да провеждат домашно обучение. Поради това ЕС не е в състояние да урежда тези въпроси.

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<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

<sup>(5)</sup> Директива 2000/78/ЕО на Съвета от 27 ноември 2000 г. за създаване на основна рамка за равно третиране в областта на заетостта и професиите, ОВ L 303, 2.12.2000 г., стр. 16.

<sup>(6)</sup> Решение на Съда от 11 април 2013 г. по съединени дела C-335/11 и C-337/11, Ring & Werge, параграф 47.

(Versión española)

**Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-004776/14  
a la Comisión**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) y Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**

(15 de abril de 2014)

*Asunto:* Enfermedad inflamatoria intestinal

La enfermedad inflamatoria intestinal (EII) es una enfermedad crónica que, en Europa, afecta a entre 2,5 y 3 millones de personas (en todo el mundo, entre 5,5 y 7 millones), y se prevé que la cifra aumente. La EII puede darse a cualquier edad, pero se diagnostica con especial frecuencia en jóvenes adultos y niños. Los síntomas incluyen diarrea, sangrado rectal, calambres, fatiga, pérdida de peso y, en los niños en particular, retraso del crecimiento y del comienzo de la pubertad. A menudo, los síntomas conducen a la hospitalización, y en Europa un 85 % de los pacientes de EII han requerido tratamiento especial en hospital en los últimos cinco años. Además, la EII puede dañar gravemente el tracto intestinal, y como mínimo la mitad de los pacientes requiere cirugía.

A pesar de estos preocupantes datos, entre los ciudadanos de la UE se desconoce bastante la EII. Esto contribuye al aislamiento social, la baja tasa de asistencia escolar y la reducida participación en el mercado laboral de los pacientes de EII.

La encuesta IMPACT de 2010-2011 mostró que en Europa alrededor del 25 % de los pacientes de EII sufren alguna clase de discriminación. Otro hallazgo alarmante de la encuesta es el grado de participación de los pacientes de EII en el mercado laboral: los resultados indican que la EII lleva a una alta tasa de absentismo, y un 44 % de los encuestados incluso han perdido o se han visto forzados a dejar su trabajo a consecuencia de la EII. Además de la inconveniencia para los pacientes de EII y sus familias, la baja participación en el mercado laboral y los altos costes del tratamiento suponen también un considerable coste económico para el conjunto de la sociedad europea. El estudio titulado «IBD Character», financiado por el 7PM, determinó que, solo en Europa, los costes generales de la EII superan los 25 000 millones de euros.

1. Teniendo en cuenta que las causas y la cura de la EII todavía se desconocen y que los costes de tratamiento suponen una importante carga para los sistemas de salud nacionales y conducen a considerables pérdidas de productividad, ¿apoyará la Comisión la investigación —concretamente, farmacéutica, medioambiental y orientada a la nutrición— de la EII en el marco del Horizonte 2020, de manera que contribuya a afrontar este desafío científico?
2. En lo que se refiere a políticas, ¿pretende la Comisión hacer más hincapié en la EII en el contexto de las estrategias dirigidas a enfermedades crónicas, como aquellas que se identificaron durante el proceso de reflexión sobre enfermedades crónicas?
3. ¿Cómo pretende la Comisión ayudar a los Estados miembros a mejorar la vida diaria de los pacientes de EII, sobre todo en materia de no discriminación, mejora de las condiciones de trabajo, gestión del estrés y acceso a educación en el hogar?

**Respuesta de la Sra. Geoghegan-Quinn en nombre de la Comisión**

(19 de junio de 2014)

1. La Comisión es consciente de la gran carga que supone la enfermedad inflamatoria intestinal (EII).

Como parte del Séptimo Programa Marco <sup>(1)</sup>, la Comisión ha dedicado más de 63 millones de EUR a apoyar la investigación en la EII. Los proyectos han estudiado, entre otros temas, la función de la microbiota en el desarrollo de la enfermedad intestinal y la identificación de objetivos terapéuticos.

Horizonte 2020, el Programa Marco de Investigación e Innovación de la UE (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, ofrecerá nuevas oportunidades para apoyar la investigación sobre la EII a través de su reto social «Salud, cambio demográfico y bienestar». En el Portal del Participante de Investigación e Innovación <sup>(3)</sup> puede obtenerse información sobre las oportunidades de financiación actuales.

2. En este momento, la Comisión no tiene previsto hacer un énfasis especial en ninguna enfermedad crónica importante, pero prosigue sus debates sobre las enfermedades crónicas dentro de las pautas presentadas en las conclusiones de la conferencia de la cumbre sobre las enfermedades crónicas <sup>(4)</sup> que tuvo lugar en abril de 2014.

<sup>(1)</sup> El Séptimo Programa Marco para acciones de investigación, desarrollo tecnológico y demostración (7<sup>o</sup> PM, 2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

3. La Directiva 2000/78/CE <sup>(5)</sup> prohíbe la discriminación en el empleo basada en la «discapacidad». El Tribunal de Justicia de la UE nunca ha visto un caso relacionado con la EII, pero ha dictaminado que el concepto de «discapacidad» puede comprender una condición causada por una enfermedad diagnosticada médicamente como curable o incurable en determinadas condiciones <sup>(6)</sup>.

En lo que se refiere a la educación, los Estados miembros tienen plenas competencias en lo que se refiere a los contenidos y a la organización de los sistemas de educación y su diversidad cultural y lingüística, incluida la definición de las normas relativas a la asistencia obligatoria. La educación en el hogar es una opción legal para los padres en algunos países. Por consiguiente, la UE no está en situación de regular estos asuntos.

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<sup>(5)</sup> Directiva 2000/78/CE del Consejo, de 27 de noviembre de 2000, relativa al establecimiento de un marco general para la igualdad de trato en el empleo y la ocupación (DO L 303 de 22/12/2000, p. 16).

<sup>(6)</sup> Fallo del Tribunal de 11 de abril de 2013 en los asuntos acumulados C-335/11 y C-337/11, Ring & Werge, apartado 47.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

**Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-004776/14**

**προς την Επιτροπή**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) και Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**

**(15 Απριλίου 2014)**

**Θέμα:** Φλεγμονώδης νόσος του εντέρου

Η φλεγμονώδης νόσος του εντέρου (inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)) είναι μια χρόνια ασθένεια που πλήττει από 2,5 έως 3 εκατομμύρια ανθρώπους στην Ευρώπη (5,5 έως 7 εκατομμύρια παγκοσμίως). Οι αριθμοί αυτοί αναμένεται να αυξηθούν περαιτέρω. Η IBD μπορεί να εμφανιστεί σε οποιαδήποτε ηλικία αλλά πλήττει με ιδιαίτερη συχνότητα παιδιά και νεαρούς ενήλικες. Τα συμπτώματα περιλαμβάνουν διάρροια, αιμορραγία από το ορθό, κράμπες, κόπωση, απώλεια βάρους και, ιδίως σε παιδιά, καθυστέρηση ως προς την ανάπτυξη και την έναρξη της εφηβείας. Τα συμπτώματα συχνά καθιστούν αναγκαία την εισαγωγή σε νοσοκομείο. Την τελευταία πενταετία, το 85% όσων πάσχουν από IBD στην Ευρώπη χρειάστηκε ειδική νοσηλεία σε νοσοκομείο. Επιπλέον, η IBD μπορεί να προκαλέσει σοβαρές βλάβες στον πεπτικό σωλήνα. Οι μισοί τουλάχιστον ασθενείς χρειάστηκαν χειρουργική.

Παρά τα ανησυχητικά αυτά στοιχεία, τα επίπεδα γνώσης και ευαισθητοποίησης σχετικά με την IBD παραμένουν χαμηλά μεταξύ των πολιτών της ΕΕ, γεγονός που συμβάλλει στην κοινωνική απομόνωση, στις αυξημένες απουσίες από το σχολείο και στα μειωμένα ποσοστά συμμετοχής στην αγορά εργασίας μεταξύ των ασθενών της IBD.

Η έρευνα για τον αντίκτυπο της IBD που πραγματοποιήθηκε το 2010-2011 έδειξε ότι γύρω στο 25% των πασχόντων στην Ευρώπη αντιμετωπίζουν κάποιας μορφής διάκριση. Ένα άλλο εύρημα της έρευνας που προξενεί ανησυχία αφορά τα ποσοστά συμμετοχής στην αγορά εργασίας των πασχόντων από IBD. Σύμφωνα με τα αποτελέσματα, η νόσος οδηγεί σε υψηλά επίπεδα απουσιών από την εργασία και το 44% όσων συμμετείχαν στην έρευνα είχαν χάσει τη δουλειά τους ή αναγκάστηκαν να παραιτηθούν εξαιτίας της IBD. Πέραν της ταλαιπωρίας των πασχόντων και των οικογενειών τους, η χαμηλή συμμετοχή στην αγορά εργασίας και το υψηλό κόστος της θεραπευτικής αγωγής συνιστούν σημαντική οικονομική επιβάρυνση για ολόκληρο το κοινωνικό σύνολο στην Ευρώπη. Σύμφωνα με την μελέτη «IBD Character», η οποία χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το Έβδομο Πρόγραμμα-Πλαίσιο, το σύνολο των ετήσιων δαπανών που οφείλονται στην IBD υπερβή τα 25 δισεκατομμύρια ευρώ στην Ευρώπη μόνο.

1. Δεδομένου ότι τόσο οι αιτίες όσο και η θεραπεία της IBD παραμένουν άγνωστες και δεδομένου επίσης ότι οι δαπάνες αγωγής και νοσηλείας αποτελούν σοβαρή επιβάρυνση για τα εθνικά συστήματα υγείας και μειώνουν σοβαρά την παραγωγικότητα, προτίθεται άραγε η Επιτροπή να προαγάγει την έρευνα για την IBD — ιδίως όσον αφορά τις φαρμακευτικές, περιβαλλοντικές και διατροφικές παραμέτρους — στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος «Ορίζων 2020» ούτως ώστε να υπάρξει μια συμβολή στην αντιμετώπιση της επιστημονικής αυτής πρόκλησης;
2. Όσον αφορά την χάραξη πολιτικής, προτίθεται η Επιτροπή να αποδώσει μεγαλύτερη έμφαση στην IBD στο πλαίσιο των στρατηγικών που διαμορφώνονται ως προς τις χρόνιες ασθένειες, όπως εκείνες που προσδιορίστηκαν κατά τη διάρκεια της διαδικασίας προβληματισμού για τις χρόνιες ασθένειες;
3. Με ποιους τρόπους προτίθεται η Επιτροπή να ενισχύσει τα κράτη μέλη στην προσπάθεια βελτίωσης της καθημερινής ζωής των πασχόντων από IBD και δη όσον αφορά την εξάλειψη των διακρίσεων, την βελτίωση των συνθηκών εργασίας, την διαχείριση του άγχους και την πρόσβαση σε κατ' οίκον εκπαίδευση;

**Απάντηση της κ. Geoghegan-Quinn εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής**

**(19 Ιουνίου 2014)**

1. Η Επιτροπή έχει υπόψη της τη σοβαρή επιβάρυνση που προκαλεί η φλεγμονώδης νόσος του εντέρου (IBD) σε παγκόσμιο επίπεδο.

Στο πλαίσιο του ΠΠ7<sup>(1)</sup>, η Επιτροπή έχει διαθέσει περισσότερα από 63 εκατ. ευρώ για τη στήριξη της έρευνας σχετικά με την IBD. Τα ερευνητικά έργα αφορούσαν, μεταξύ άλλων, τον ρόλο της εντερικής μικροχλωρίδας στην εξέλιξη της ασθένειας και τον προσδιορισμό θεραπευτικών στόχων.

Το «Ορίζων 2020», πρόγραμμα-πλαίσιο της ΕΕ για την έρευνα και την καινοτομία (2014-2020)<sup>(2)</sup>, θα προσφέρει περαιτέρω ευκαιρίες για τη στήριξη της έρευνας σχετικά με την IBD μέσω της κοινωνικής πρόκλησης «Υγεία, δημογραφική αλλαγή και ευημερία». Πληροφορίες σχετικά με τις τρέχουσες ευκαιρίες χρηματοδότησης παρέχονται στην πύλη συμμετεχόντων στην έρευνα και την καινοτομία<sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Έβδομο πρόγραμμα-πλαίσιο για δραστηριότητες έρευνας, τεχνολογικής ανάπτυξης και επιδείξεως (ΠΠ7, 2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

2. Στο στάδιο αυτό, η Επιτροπή δεν προτίθεται να δώσει ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στις σοβαρές χρόνιες παθήσεις, συνεχίζει όμως τις συζητήσεις για τις χρόνιες παθήσεις σύμφωνα με τις κατευθύνσεις που παρουσιάζονται στα συμπεράσματα της «συνόδου κορυφής χρόνιων παθήσεων»<sup>(4)</sup>, που πραγματοποιήθηκε τον Απρίλιο του 2014.

3. Η οδηγία 2000/78/EK<sup>(5)</sup> απαγορεύει τις διακρίσεις στην απασχόληση «λόγω ειδικών αναγκών». Το Δικαστήριο της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης μολονότι δεν έχει επιληφθεί υπόθεσης που να αφορά την IBD, έχει αποφανθεί ότι στην έννοια της «ειδικής ανάγκης» μπορεί να περιληφθεί κατάσταση που έχει προκληθεί από νόσο ιατρικώς διαγνωσθείσα ως ιάσιμη ή ανίατη υπό ορισμένες προϋποθέσεις<sup>(6)</sup>.

Όσον αφορά την εκπαίδευση, τα κράτη μέλη έχουν πλήρη ευθύνη για το περιεχόμενο της διδασκαλίας και την οργάνωση του εκπαιδευτικού συστήματος, καθώς και την πολιτιστική και γλωσσική πολυμορφία τους, συμπεριλαμβανομένου του ορισμού των κανόνων σχετικά με την υποχρεωτική παρουσία. Η κατ' οίκον εκπαίδευση αποτελεί νομική δυνατότητα για τους γονείς σε ορισμένες χώρες. Η ΕΕ δεν είναι, συνεπώς, σε θέση να ρυθμίσει τα ζητήματα αυτά.

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<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

<sup>(5)</sup> Οδηγία 2000/78/EK του Συμβουλίου, της 27ης Νοεμβρίου 2000, για τη διαμόρφωση γενικού πλαισίου για την ίση μεταχείριση στην απασχόληση και την εργασία, ΕΕ L 303 της 2.12.2000, σ. 16.

<sup>(6)</sup> Απόφαση του Δικαστηρίου, της 11ης Απριλίου 2013, στις συνεκδικασθείσες υποθέσεις C-335/11 και C-337/11, Ring & Werge, σκέψη 47.

(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-004776/14  
à la Commission**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE),  
Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) et  
Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**

(15 avril 2014)

*Objet:* Maladie inflammatoire de l'intestin

La maladie inflammatoire de l'intestin (MII) est une maladie chronique qui touche plus de 2,5 à 3 millions de personnes en Europe (soit 5,5 à 7 millions de personnes dans le monde), et ces chiffres devraient encore augmenter. La MII peut se déclarer à tout âge, mais elle touche le plus souvent les jeunes adultes et les enfants. Elle se manifeste par une diarrhée, des saignements rectaux, des crampes, de la fatigue, une perte de poids et, en particulier, par un retard de croissance et de puberté chez les enfants. Les symptômes entraînent souvent l'hospitalisation et 85 % des patients européens souffrant de la MII ont eu besoin d'un traitement hospitalier spécifique ces cinq dernières années. En outre, la MII peut gravement endommager le tube digestif, et au moins la moitié des patients doivent subir une intervention chirurgicale.

Malgré ces données alarmantes, les citoyens de l'Union européenne ne connaissent pas vraiment la maladie inflammatoire de l'intestin. Cette méconnaissance contribue à l'isolement social, au recul de la fréquentation scolaire et à la baisse de la participation sur le marché du travail des patients qui en sont atteints.

L'étude IMPACT a démontré qu'environ 25 % des patients atteints de la MII en Europe sont victimes d'une quelconque forme de discrimination. Cette étude révèle une autre donnée alarmante, à savoir le taux de participation sur le marché du travail des patients souffrant de cette maladie: en effet, la MII est à l'origine d'un taux élevé d'absentéisme et 44 % des personnes interrogées ont même été contraintes de démissionner ou ont perdu leur emploi à cause de la maladie. En plus des inconvénients qu'implique la MII pour les patients et leurs familles, la faible participation au marché du travail et le coût élevé des soins représentent un fardeau économique lourd pour l'ensemble de la société européenne. L'étude intitulée «IBD Character», financée par le PC7, a révélé que les coûts annuels totaux engendrés par la MII sont supérieurs à 25 milliards d'euros rien qu'en Europe.

1. Étant donné qu'on ne connaît pas encore les causes et les remèdes de la MII, et que les coûts de traitement constituent une lourde charge pour les systèmes nationaux de santé et engendrent une perte considérable de la productivité, la Commission entend-elle appuyer la recherche — notamment la recherche pharmaceutique, environnementale et axée sur la nutrition — sur la MII dans le cadre de l'initiative «Horizon 2020», afin de s'attaquer à ce défi scientifique?
2. Sur le plan politique, la Commission a-t-elle l'intention d'insister davantage sur la MII dans le cadre des stratégies concernant les maladies chroniques, comme celles identifiées lors du processus de réflexion sur les maladies chroniques?
3. Comment la Commission entend-t-elle aider les États membres à améliorer le quotidien des patients atteints de la MII, notamment en matière de non-discrimination, d'amélioration des conditions de travail, de gestion du stress et d'accès à l'enseignement à domicile?

**Réponse donnée par M<sup>me</sup> Geoghegan-Quinn au nom de la Commission**

(19 juin 2014)

1. La Commission est consciente de la lourde charge que représentent les maladies inflammatoires de l'intestin (MII) au niveau mondial.

Dans le cadre du 7<sup>PC</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>, la Commission a consacré plus de 63 millions d'euros au soutien de la recherche sur les MII. Les projets concernés ont porté, entre autres problèmes, sur le rôle du microbiote intestinal dans le développement de la maladie et sur l'identification des cibles thérapeutiques.

Horizon 2020, — le Programme-cadre de l'UE pour la recherche et l'innovation (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, offrira de nouvelles opportunités de soutenir la recherche sur les MII à travers son défi de société «santé, évolution démographique et bien-être». Des informations sur les possibilités de financement peuvent être obtenues sur le portail des participants aux travaux de recherche et d'innovation <sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Septième programme-cadre de la Communauté européenne pour des actions de recherche, de développement technologique et de démonstration (PC7, 2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

2. À ce stade, la Commission n'a pas l'intention d'accorder une attention particulière à l'une ou l'autre maladie chronique majeure, mais elle poursuit sa réflexion sur les maladies chroniques en s'inspirant des orientations présentées dans les conclusions de la conférence du «sommet des maladies chroniques»<sup>(4)</sup> qui a eu lieu en avril 2014.

3. La directive 2000/78/CE<sup>(5)</sup> interdit la discrimination en matière d'emploi fondée sur le «handicap». La Cour de justice de l'UE n'a jamais été saisie d'une affaire relative à la MII, mais elle a jugé que le concept de «handicap» pouvait inclure un état pathologique causé par une maladie médicalement constatée comme curable ou incurable sous certaines conditions<sup>(6)</sup>.

En ce qui concerne l'éducation, les États membres sont pleinement responsables du contenu de l'enseignement, de l'organisation et de la diversité culturelle et linguistique des systèmes éducatifs, de même que de la définition de règles sur l'obligation d'assister aux cours. L'enseignement à domicile est, dans certains pays, une option légale pour les parents. L'UE n'est donc pas en mesure de régler ces questions.

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<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

<sup>(5)</sup> Directive 2000/78/CE du Conseil du 27 novembre 2000 portant création d'un cadre général en faveur de l'égalité de traitement en matière d'emploi et de travail (JO L 303 du 02.12.2000, p. 16).

<sup>(6)</sup> Arrêt de la Cour du 11 avril 2013 dans les affaires jointes C-335/11 et C-337/11, Ring et Werge, paragraphe 47.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-004776/14  
alla Commissione**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) e Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**  
(15 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Malattia infiammatoria intestinale

La malattia infiammatoria intestinale (Inflammatory bowel disease o IBD) è una malattia cronica che colpisce dai 2,5 milioni ai 3 milioni di persone in Europa (dai 5,5 ai 7 milioni a livello mondiale), e le cifre sono previste al rialzo. L'IBD può manifestarsi a qualsiasi età, anche se viene diagnosticata con particolare frequenza nei bambini e nei giovani adulti. Tra i sintomi figurano diarrea, sanguinamento rettale, crampi, affaticamento, perdita di peso e, con particolare riferimento ai bambini, ritardi nella crescita e nell'inizio della pubertà. Spesso i sintomi conducono al ricovero ospedaliero e negli ultimi cinque anni l'85 % delle persone affette da IBD ha dovuto ricevere cure specialistiche in ospedale. L'IBD può inoltre causare gravi danni al tratto digerente e per almeno la metà delle persone affette è necessario ricorrere all'intervento chirurgico.

Nonostante tali preoccupanti aspetti, tra i cittadini dell'UE è piuttosto basso il livello di sensibilizzazione sull'IBD, la quale contribuisce all'isolamento sociale, a una minore frequenza scolastica e a una ridotta partecipazione al mercato del lavoro da parte delle persone affette.

L'indagine IMPACT del 2010-2011 ha evidenziato che in Europa circa il 25 % delle persone colpite da IBD ha subito forme di discriminazione. Un altro risultato allarmante scaturito dall'indagine riguarda il livello di partecipazione al mercato del lavoro da parte delle persone affette da IBD, infatti stando ai risultati la malattia conduce a elevati livelli di assenteismo e il 44 % dei rispondenti ha persino perso il posto di lavoro o è stato costretto a lasciarlo in conseguenza dell'IBD. Oltre a rappresentare un disagio per le persone affette da IBD e le loro famiglie, la bassa partecipazione al mercato del lavoro e i costi elevati delle cure costituiscono anche un significativo onere economico per l'intera società europea. Secondo lo studio finanziato dal 7° PQ e intitolato «IBD Character», i costi annuali aggregati dell'IBD superano nella sola Europa i 25 milioni di EUR.

1. Dato che le cause e le cure riguardanti l'IBD sono tuttora ignote e in considerazione del fatto che i costi delle cure rappresentano un onere considerevole per i sistemi sanitari nazionali e conducono a notevoli perdite di competitività, intende la Commissione sostenere la ricerca sull'IBD, in particolare quella farmaceutica, ambientale e orientata agli aspetti nutrizionali, nel quadro di Orizzonte 2020, al fine di contribuire ad affrontare questa sfida scientifica?
2. In termini di politiche e nell'ambito delle strategie riguardanti le malattie croniche, intende porre maggiore enfasi sull'IBD, conformemente alle strategie individuate nel corso del processo di riflessione sulle malattie croniche?
3. In che modo intende la Commissione coadiuvare gli Stati membri al fine di migliorare la vita quotidiana delle persone affette da IBD, con particolare riferimento alla non discriminazione, al miglioramento delle condizioni lavorative, alla gestione dello stress, e all'accesso all'istruzione a domicilio?

**Risposta di Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione**  
(19 giugno 2014)

1. La Commissione è a conoscenza del pesante onere finanziario che la malattia infiammatoria intestinale (Inflammatory bowel disease, IBD) comporta a livello mondiale.

Nell'ambito del 7° PQ <sup>(1)</sup>, la Commissione ha destinato oltre 63 milioni di euro alla ricerca sulla IBD. I progetti riguardavano, tra l'altro, il ruolo del microbiota intestinale nello sviluppo della malattia e l'individuazione degli obiettivi terapeutici.

Orizzonte 2020, il programma quadro dell'UE per la ricerca e l'innovazione (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, offrirà ulteriori opportunità per sostenere la ricerca sull'IBD nell'ambito dell'obiettivo «Salute, cambiamento demografico e benessere», contenuto nella priorità «Sfide per la società». Le informazioni sulle attuali possibilità di finanziamento possono essere ottenute attraverso il portale UE dedicato alla ricerca e all'innovazione <sup>(3)</sup>.

2. In questa fase la Commissione non intende porre particolare enfasi su nessuna malattia cronica, bensì proseguire la riflessione su tali malattie, dando seguito alle conclusioni del vertice sulle malattie croniche svoltosi nell'aprile 2014 <sup>(4)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Settimo programma quadro per le attività di ricerca, sviluppo tecnologico e dimostrazione (2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)



3. La direttiva 2000/78/CE <sup>(5)</sup> proibisce la discriminazione sul lavoro basata su un handicap. La Corte di giustizia dell'UE non ha mai affrontato una causa riguardante l'IBD, ma ha sentenziato che la nozione di «handicap» può includere una condizione patologica causata da una malattia diagnosticata come curabile o incurabile, a determinate condizioni <sup>(6)</sup>.

Per quanto riguarda l'istruzione, gli Stati membri hanno piena responsabilità per il contenuto dell'insegnamento, l'organizzazione dei sistemi di istruzione e delle loro diversità culturali e linguistiche, compresa la definizione di regole circa la partecipazione obbligatoria. In alcuni paesi l'istruzione a domicilio è un'opzione giuridica a disposizione dei genitori. L'UE, pertanto, non è in una posizione tale da disciplinare tali questioni.

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<sup>(5)</sup> Direttiva 2000/78/CE del Consiglio, del 27 novembre 2000, che stabilisce un quadro generale per la parità di trattamento in materia di occupazione e di condizioni di lavoro, GU L 303 del 2.12.2000, pag. 16.

<sup>(6)</sup> Sentenza della Corte dell'11 aprile 2013 nelle cause riunite C-335/11 e C-337/11, Ring & Werge, punto 47.

(Magyar változat)

**Írásbeli választ igénylő kérdés E-004776/14  
a Bizottság számára**

**Bánki Erik (PPE), Sógor Csaba (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) és Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**  
(2014. április 15.)

Tárgy: Gyulladásos bélbetegség

A gyulladásos bélbetegség (IBD) olyan krónikus betegség, amely Európában több mint 2,5-3 millió embert érint (világszerte 5,5-7 millió embert), és ez a szám várhatóan csak növekedni fog. Az IBD bármely életkorban előfordulhat, de gyermekek és fiatal felnőttek körében különösen gyakran diagnosztizálják. Tünetei többek között a hasmenés, végbél vérzés, görcsök, fáradtság, fogyás, és különösen gyermekek körében a növekedés visszamaradása és a késői serdülés. A tünetek gyakran kórházi kezeléshez vezetnek, Európában az IBD-ben szenvedők 85%-a szorult az elmúlt öt év során kórházi szakkezelésre. Ezenfelül az IBD súlyosan károsíthatja az emésztőrendszert, a betegek legalább fele műtétre szorul.

Ezen aggodalomra okot adó tények ellenére az IBD az uniós polgárok körében igen kevéssé ismert, ami hozzájárul az IBD-ben szenvedők szociális elszigetelődéséhez, az iskoláztatás csökkenéséhez és az alacsonyabb munkaerő-piaci részvételhez.

A 2010–2011. évi IMPACT felmérés kimutatta, hogy Európában az IBD-ben szenvedők 25%-a tapasztal valamilyen fajta hátrányos megkülönböztetést. A felmérés egy másik riasztó eredménye az IBD-ben szenvedők munkaerő-piaci részvételének szintjére vonatkozik, amellyel kapcsolatban az eredmények azt mutatják, hogy a betegség a hiányzások magas szintjéhez vezet, továbbá hogy a válaszadók 44%-a az IBD következtében munkahelyét elvesztette, illetve annak elhagyására kényszerült. Az IBD-ben szenvedők és családjuk számára okozott kényelmetlenségen felül az alacsony munkaerő-piaci részvétel és a magas kezelési költségek az európai társadalom egészére nézve komoly gazdasági terhet jelentenek. A hetedik keretprogram által finanszírozott „IBD Character” című tanulmány szerint az IBD éves összesített költségei csak Európában meghaladják a 25 milliárd eurót.

1. Tekintettel arra, hogy az IBD okai és gyógymódja még mindig nem ismertek, és figyelemmel arra, hogy a kezelés költségei a nemzeti egészségügyi rendszerek számára komoly terhet jelentenek, továbbá hogy a betegség a termelékenységet komolyan visszavetheti, szándékában áll-e a Bizottságnak az IBD-kutatás – és különösen a gyógyszerészeti, környezeti és táplálkozás-orientált kutatás – támogatása a Horizont 2020 keretprogram keretében, ami által hozzájárulna e tudományos kihívás megoldásához?
2. A szakpolitikai lehetőségeket illetően szándékában áll-e a Bizottságnak, hogy nagyobb hangsúlyt helyezzen az IBD-re a krónikus betegségekkel kapcsolatos – például a krónikus betegségek áttekintésének folyamata során azonosított – stratégiák keretein belül?
3. Miként szándékozik a Bizottság segíteni a tagállamokat az IBD-ben szenvedők mindennapi életének javításában, különösen a megkülönböztetésmentesség, a jobb munkakörülmények, a stresszkezelés és az otthoni iskolai oktatáshoz való hozzáférés tekintetében?

**Máire Geoghegan-Quinn válasza a Bizottság nevében**

(2014. június 19.)

1. A Bizottság tisztában van a gyulladásos bélbetegség (IBD) következtében globális szinten jelentkező súlyos teherrel.

A hetedik keretprogram <sup>(1)</sup> részeként a Bizottság több mint 63 millió eurót fordított az IBD-kutatások támogatására. A projektek többek között a bélfórának a betegség kialakulásában betöltött szerepére, valamint a terápiás célok meghatározására irányultak.

A „Horizont 2020” uniós kutatási és innovációs keretprogram (2014–2020) <sup>(2)</sup> további lehetőségeket fog biztosítani az IBD-kutatások támogatására az „Egészségügy, demográfiai változások és jólét” elnevezésű társadalmi kihívásán keresztül. A jelenlegi finanszírozási lehetőségekről bővebb információt a kutatási és innovációs programokban részt vevők portálján <sup>(3)</sup> lehet beszerezni.

2. A Bizottság ebben a szakaszban egyik súlyos krónikus betegségre sem szándékozik különös hangsúlyt helyezni, hanem a 2014 áprilisában megrendezett, krónikus betegségekről szóló csúcstalálkozó következtetéseiben <sup>(4)</sup> bemutatottakkal összhangban folytatja az eszmecsere a krónikus betegségek témájában.

<sup>(1)</sup> Kutatási, technológiafejlesztési és demonstrációs tevékenységekre vonatkozó hetedik keretprogram (FP7, 2007–2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

3. A 2000/78/EK irányelv <sup>(5)</sup> tiltja a foglalkoztatás területén a fogyatékoságon alapuló hátrányos megkülönböztetést. Az Európai Bíróság mindeddig nem tárgyalta a gyulladásoos bélbetegséggel összefüggő ügyet, de hozott már olyan ítéletet <sup>(6)</sup>, amely szerint bizonyos feltételek mellett a fogyatékoság fogalma egyaránt kiterjedhet az orvosilag gyógyíthatónak, illetve gyógyíthatatlannak minősített betegségek által okozott kóros állapotokra.

Az oktatás tekintetében kizárólag a tagállamok hatáskörébe tartozik az oktatás tartalma, az oktatási rendszerek szervezése, valamint azok kulturális és nyelvi sokszínűsége, ideértve a kötelező részvételre vonatkozó szabályokat. Bizonyos országokban a szülőknek jogilag lehetőségük van az otthoni iskolai oktatást választani. Az EU hatásköre ezért nem terjed ki ezen kérdések szabályozására.

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<sup>(5)</sup> A Tanács 2000. november 27-i 2000/78/EK irányelve a foglalkoztatás és a munkavégzés során alkalmazott egyenlő bánásmód általános kereteinek létrehozásáról (HL L 303., 2000.12.2., 16. o.).

<sup>(6)</sup> A Bíróság 2013. április 11-i, a C-335/11. sz. és C-337/11. sz., Ring & Werge egyesített ügyekben hozott ítélete, 47. bekezdés.

(Nederlandse versie)

**Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-004776/14  
aan de Commissie**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE),  
Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) en  
Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**

(15 april 2014)

Betreft: Chronische darmontsteking (IBD = inflammatory bowel disease)

Chronische darmontsteking is een chronische ziekte waar in Europa 2,5 tot 3 miljoen mensen aan lijden (en in de hele wereld 5,5 tot 7 miljoen mensen), tendens stijgend. De ziekte kan op elke leeftijd de kop opsteken, maar de diagnose wordt vooral vaak gesteld bij kinderen en jongvolwassenen. Tot de symptomen behoren diarree, rectale bloedingen, kramp, vermoeidheid, gewichtsverlies en, met name bij kinderen, groeistoornissen en een vertraagde puberale ontwikkeling. In veel gevallen moeten patiënten met een chronische darmontsteking in het ziekenhuis worden opgenomen (de afgelopen vijf jaar moest 85 % van de patiënten met deze ziekte in Europa voor een specialistische behandeling worden gehospitaliseerd). Chronische darmontsteking kan ook ernstige schade aan het spijsverteringskanaal tot gevolg hebben (meer dan de helft van de patiënten moet worden geopereerd).

Ondanks deze zorgwekkende feiten — en het gegeven dat deze ziekte bijdraagt tot een sociaal isolement, schooluitval en een lagere arbeidsmarktparticipatie — weten de burgers van de EU maar weinig af van chronische darmontsteking.

De enquête IMPACT 2011-2012 heeft aan het licht gebracht dat ongeveer 25 % van alle patiënten met een chronische darmontsteking in Europa met één of andere vorm van discriminatie te maken krijgt. Een andere alarmerende bevinding van de enquête is dat chronische darmontsteking tot een hoog ziekteverzuim leidt en dat 44 % van de respondenten zelfs zijn baan had verloren of had moeten opgeven ten gevolge van de ziekte. Behalve dat de ziekte voor de patiënten en hun familie veel ongemak oplevert, resulteren een lage arbeidsmarktparticipatie en de hoge behandelingskosten ook in een zware financieel-economische last voor de Europese samenleving als zodanig. De door het zevende kaderprogramma gefinancierde studie „IBD Character” heeft berekend dat de jaarlijkse gecumuleerde kosten van chronische darmontsteking alleen in Europa al meer dan 25 miljard EUR bedragen.

1. Is de Commissie (wetend dat we nog in het duister tasten over de oorzaken en de genezing van deze ziekte, en gezien het feit dat de behandelingskosten een grote belasting voor de nationale volksgezondheidsstelsels vormen en tot een aanzienlijk verlies aan productiviteit leiden) bereid in het kader van Horizon 2020 geld vrij te maken voor onderzoek — met name geneesmiddelenonderzoek, onderzoek naar milieufactoren en voedingsgeoriënteerd onderzoek — naar chronische darmontsteking, en daarmee deze wetenschappelijke uitdaging aan te gaan?
2. Is de Commissie bereid binnen het beleid en de strategieën voor chronische ziekten (bijvoorbeeld de chronische ziekten die in het reflectieproces over chronische ziekten in kaart zijn gebracht) grotere aandacht aan chronische darmontsteking te besteden?
3. Op welke wijze gaat de Commissie de lidstaten helpen een verbetering aan te brengen in het dagelijks leven van patiënten met een chronische darmontsteking, met name wat betreft niet-discriminatie, verbeterde arbeidsomstandigheden, stressmanagement en toegang tot thuisonderwijs?

**Antwoord van mevrouw Geoghegan-Quinn namens de Commissie**

(19 juni 2014)

1. De Commissie is zich bewust van de zware last die chronische darmontsteking (Inflammatory bowel disease, IBD) wereldwijd vormt. Als onderdeel van FP7 <sup>(1)</sup> heeft de Commissie 63 miljoen EU toegewezen om onderzoek naar IBD te ondersteunen. De projecten behandelden, onder andere, de rol van microflora in de darmen bij de ontwikkeling van de ziekte en de identificatie van therapeutische aangrijpingspunten.

Via Horizon 2020, het EU-kaderprogramma voor onderzoek en ontwikkeling (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, kan onderzoek naar IBD verder worden ondersteund middels de maatschappelijke uitdaging „gezondheid, demografische verandering en welzijn”. Informatie over de huidige financieringsmogelijkheden zijn beschikbaar op het Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(3)</sup>.

2. Op dit moment is de Commissie niet voornemens speciale aandacht te besteden aan een specifieke belangrijke chronische ziekte, maar zet zij de dialoog over chronische ziekten voort overeenkomstig de conclusies van de topconferentie over chronische ziekten <sup>(4)</sup> in april 2014.

<sup>(1)</sup> Zevende kaderprogramma voor activiteiten op het gebied van onderzoek, technologische ontwikkeling en demonstratie (Framework Programme (FP), 2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

3. Richtlijn 2000/78/EG <sup>(5)</sup> verbiedt discriminatie bij tewerkstelling op grond van een „handicap”. Het Hof van Justitie van de EU heeft nog geen zaken behandeld die betrekking hadde op IBD, maar heeft wel geoordeeld dat het concept van een „handicap” in sommige omstandigheden ook geldt voor een toestand die voortvloeit uit een door een arts gediagnosticeerde geneeslijke of ongeneeslijke aandoening <sup>(6)</sup>.

Wat betreft onderwijs hebben de lidstaten de volledige verantwoordelijkheid voor de inhoud van het lesprogramma en de organisatie van de onderwijssystemen en de culturele en linguïstische diversiteit daarvan, met inbegrip van de regels voor verplichte aanwezigheid. In sommige landen is thuisonderwijs is een wettelijke optie voor ouders. De EU heeft daarom geen wetgevende bevoegdheid op dit vlak.

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<sup>(5)</sup> Richtlijn 2000/78/EG van de Raad van 27 november 2000 tot instelling van een algemeen kader voor gelijke behandeling in arbeid en beroep (PB L 303 van 2.12.2000, blz. 16).

<sup>(6)</sup> Arrest van het Hof van 11 april 2013 in de gevoegde zaken C-335/11 C-337/11, Ring & Werge, punt 47.

(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-004776/14  
adresată Comisiei**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) și Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**  
(15 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Boala inflamatorie cronică a intestinului

Boala inflamatorie cronică a intestinului (IBD) este o maladie cronică care afectează 2,5 până la 3 milioane de persoane în Europa (5,5 până la 7 milioane în întreaga lume), tendința anticipată fiind aceea ca numărul acestora să crească. IBD poate să apară la orice vârstă, dar este diagnosticată deosebit de frecvent la copii și adulții tineri. Printre simptome se numără diareea, sângerările rectale, crampele, oboseala, pierderea de greutate și, ca o particularitate la copii, întârzieri în creștere și la instalarea pubertății. Simptomele conduc adesea la spitalizare, 85 % dintre persoanele suferind de IBD din Europa având nevoie de tratament special în spital pe durata ultimilor cinci ani. Mai mult decât atât, IBD poate provoca deteriorarea gravă a tractului digestiv, cel puțin jumătate dintre persoanele afectate necesitând intervenții chirurgicale.

În ciuda acestor fapte îngrijorătoare, nivelul de conștientizare a IBD este destul de redus printre cetățenii UE, ceea ce contribuie la izolarea socială, la un nivel redus de școlarizare și la o participare scăzută la piața muncii printre persoanele suferind de IBD.

Studiul IMPACT 2010-2011 a arătat că aproximativ 25 % dintre persoanele care suferă de IBD din Europa întâmpină o oarecare formă de discriminare. O altă constatare alarmantă a studiului se referă la nivelul de participare la piața muncii a persoanelor suferind de IBD, rezultatele indicând că boala conduce la niveluri ridicate de absenteism și că 44 % dintre respondenți și-au pierdut chiar locul de muncă sau au fost obligați să renunțe la acesta ca urmare a IBD. Pe lângă inconvenientele pe care IBD le induce celor suferinzi și familiilor lor, nivelul redus de participare la piața muncii și costul ridicat al tratamentului constituie, de asemenea, o povară economică semnificativă asupra societății europene în întregul ei. Studiul finanțat de FP7 intitulat „IBD Character” a relevat faptul că costurile agregate aferente IBD depășesc 25 miliarde de euro doar în Europa.

1. Dat fiind că modul de vindecare și cauzele IBD sunt încă necunoscute și ținând seama de faptul că costurile tratamentului constituie o povară grea pentru sistemele naționale de sănătate și conduc la pierderi semnificative de productivitate, va pleda Comisia pentru cercetare dedicată IBD în cadrul Orizont 2020 care să contribuie la soluționarea acestei provocări științifice, în special în domeniul cercetării farmaceutice, ambientale și nutriționale?
2. În termeni politici, intenționează Comisia să pună un accent mai mare asupra IBD în contextul strategiilor orientate asupra bolilor cronice, cum sunt cele identificate în cursul procesului de reflecție având ca obiect maladiile cronice?
3. În ce mod intenționează Comisia să asiste statele membre în vederea ameliorării traiului zilnic al bolnavilor de IBD, în special în ceea ce privește nediscriminarea, îmbunătățirea condițiilor de muncă, managementul stresului și accesul la școlarizarea la domiciliu?

**Răspuns dat de dna Geoghegan-Quinn în numele Comisiei**  
(19 iunie 2014)

1. Comisia este conștientă de povara grea pe care o presupune boala inflamatorie cronică a intestinului (IBD) la nivel mondial.

În cadrul PC 7 <sup>(1)</sup>, Comisia a consacrat peste 63 milioane EUR pentru sprijinirea cercetării privind IBD. Proiectele au tratat, printre alte probleme, rolul microbiotei intestinale în evoluția bolii și identificarea obiectivelor terapeutice.

„Orizont 2020” — Programul-cadru al UE pentru cercetare și inovare (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, va oferi noi oportunități pentru sprijinirea cercetării privind IBD prin obiectivul său „Sănătate, schimbări demografice și bunăstare” din cadrul priorității „Provocări societale”. Informații cu privire la posibilitățile de finanțare existente pot fi obținute pe site-ul portalului pentru participanții la programe de cercetare și inovare <sup>(3)</sup>.

2. În acest stadiu, Comisia nu intenționează să acorde o atenție particulară unei anumite boli cronice, dar continuă discuțiile sale privind bolile cronice în conformitate cu orientările prezentate în concluziile conferinței „Reuniunea la nivel înalt privind bolile cronice” <sup>(4)</sup>, care a avut loc în aprilie 2014.

<sup>(1)</sup> Al șaptelea program-cadru pentru cercetare, dezvoltare tehnologică și activități demonstrative (PC7, 2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

3. Directiva 2000/78/CE <sup>(5)</sup> interzice discriminarea la locul de muncă pe bază de handicap. Curtea Europeană de Justiție nu a instrumentat niciodată o cauză privind IBD, dar ea a hotărât că noțiunea de „handicap” poate include o stare patologică cauzată de o afecțiune medicală diagnosticată drept curabilă sau incurabilă în anumite condiții <sup>(6)</sup>.

În ceea ce privește educația, statele membre sunt pe deplin responsabile de conținutul învățământului și de organizarea sistemului educațional, precum și diversitatea lor culturală și lingvistică, inclusiv definirea normelor privind prezența obligatorie. Școlarizarea la domiciliu este o opțiune legală a părinților în unele țări. UE, prin urmare, nu este în măsură să reglementeze cu privire la aceste aspecte.

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<sup>(5)</sup> Directiva 2000/78/CE a Consiliului din 27 noiembrie 2000 de creare a unui cadru general în favoarea egalității de tratament în ceea ce privește încadrarea în muncă și ocuparea forței de muncă, JO L 303 din 2.12.2000, p. 16.

<sup>(6)</sup> Hotărârea Curții din 11 aprilie 2013 în cauzele conexe C-335/11 and C-337/11, Ring & Werge, punctul 47.

(Svensk version)

**Frågor för skriftligt besvarande E-004776/14  
till kommissionen**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) och Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**  
(15 april 2014)

Angående: Inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom

Inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom är en kronisk sjukdom som drabbar över 2,5–3 miljoner personer i Europa (5,5–7 miljoner i hela världen). Dessa siffror förväntas öka ytterligare. Inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom kan inträffa vid vilken ålder som helst, men drabbar särskilt ofta barn och unga vuxna. Symptomen omfattar diarré, ändtarmsblödning, kramp, trötthet, viktnedgång och, när det rör barn, försenad tillväxt och pubertet. Symptomen leder ofta till sjukhusinläggning, och under de senaste fem åren har 85 % av de som har drabbats av inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom varit tvungna att få specialvård på sjukhus. Inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom kan dessutom orsaka allvarlig skada på matsmältningssystemet, och minst hälften av alla drabbade måste opereras.

Trots dessa oroande omständigheter är kännedomen om inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom ganska låg bland EU-medborgarna, vilket bidrar till social isolering, lägre skolnärvaro och minskat deltagande i arbetslivet bland de som har drabbats av sjukdomen.

2010–2011 års *Impact Survey* visar att omkring 25 % av de som har inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom i Europa har erfaren någon form av diskriminering. En annan oroväckande slutsats i undersökningen är graden av deltagande på arbetsmarknaden när det gäller personer som har inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom, i och med att resultaten visar att sjukdomen leder till en stor frånvaro och att 44 % av de svarande t.o.m. hade förlorat eller tvingats att sluta sina jobb på grund av sjukdomen. Förutom att vara en olägenhet för de som har inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom och deras familjer, skapar även det låga deltagandet på arbetsmarknaden och de höga vårdkostnaderna en betydande ekonomisk börda för det europeiska samhället som helhet. I studien med titeln "IBD Character" ("kännetecknen för inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom") inom ramen för det sjunde ramprogrammet kom man fram till att de årliga aggregerade kostnaderna för sjukdomen översteg 25 miljarder euro bara i Europa.

1. Kommer kommissionen, med tanke på att orsakerna till och botemedlet för inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom fortfarande är okända och med hänsyn till att vårdkostnaderna utgör en tung börda för de nationella sjukvårdssystemen och leder till betydande produktivitetsförluster, att förespråka forskning – särskilt läkemedels-, miljö- och näringsinriktad forskning – om inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom inom Horisont 2020, som kommer att bidra till att lösa denna vetenskapliga utmaning?
2. Avser kommissionen, angående politiken, att lägga större vikt vid inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom när det handlar om strategier för kroniska sjukdomar, som dem som har identifierats under reflektionsprocessen för kroniska sjukdomar?
3. På vilket sätt avser kommissionen att hjälpa medlemsstaterna förbättra det dagliga livet för personer som har inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom, särskilt vad gäller icke-diskriminering, förbättrade arbetsförhållanden, stresshantering och tillgång till skolundervisning i hemmet?

**Svar från Máire Geoghegan-Quinn på kommissionens vägnar**

(19 juni 2014)

1. Kommissionen är medveten om att inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom vållar stora problem världen över.

Som en del av sjunde ramprogrammet för forskning <sup>(1)</sup> har kommissionen anslagit över 6,3 miljoner euro till stöd för forskning kring inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom. Projekten syftar bland annat till att studera tarmfloras roll i sjukdomens utveckling och att identifiera terapeutiska mål.

Horisont 2020, EU:s ramprogram för forskning och innovation (2014–2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, kommer att innebära ytterligare möjligheter att stödja forskning om inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom genom samhällsutmaningen "Hälsa, demografiska förändringar och välbefinnande". Information om gällande finansieringsmöjligheter hittas på Portalen för forskning och innovation <sup>(3)</sup>.

2. I detta skede har kommissionen inte för avsikt att lägga särskild vikt vid en specifik kronisk sjukdom, utan fortsätter diskussionen i enlighet med slutsatserna av EU:s toppmöte om kroniska sjukdomar <sup>(4)</sup> som ägde rum i april 2014.

<sup>(1)</sup> Sjunde ramprogrammet för verksamhet inom området forskning, teknisk utveckling och demonstration (2007–2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)



3. Direktiv 2000/78/EG <sup>(5)</sup> förbjuder diskriminering på arbetsmarknaden på grund av "funktionshinder". EU-domstolen har aldrig behandlat ett ärende som gäller inflammatorisk tarmsjukdom, men den har slagit fast att begreppet "funktionshinder" kan omfatta ett sjukdomstillstånd som orsakats av en sjukdom som diagnostiserats som behandlingsbar eller obotlig under vissa omständigheter <sup>(6)</sup>.

När det gäller utbildning är det medlemsstaterna som har ansvar för undervisningens innehåll och utbildningssystemens organisation samt deras kulturella och språkliga mångfald, vilket även omfattar fastställande av bestämmelser om obligatorisk skolgång. Skolundervisning i hemmet är en rättslig möjlighet för föräldrar i vissa länder. EU kan därför inte reglera dessa frågor.

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<sup>(5)</sup> Rådets direktiv 2000/78/EG av den 27 november 2000 om inrättande av en allmän ram för likabehandling (EGT L 303, 02.12.2000, s. 16).

<sup>(6)</sup> Domstolens dom av den 11 april 2013 i de förenade målen C-335/11 och C-337/11, Ring & Werge, punkt 47.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004776/14  
to the Commission**

**Erik Bánki (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE), Teresa Riera Madurell (S&D), Oreste Rossi (PPE), Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE), Nikos Chrysogelos (Verts/ALE), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Monika Panayotova (PPE) and Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**  
(15 April 2014)

*Subject:* Inflammatory bowel disease

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a chronic disease which affects over 2.5 to 3 million people in Europe (5.5 to 7 million worldwide), with numbers expected to increase further. IBD can occur at any age, but is diagnosed especially frequently among children and young adults. Symptoms include diarrhoea, rectal bleeding, cramps, fatigue, weight loss and, particular to children, delays in growth and the onset of puberty. Symptoms often lead to hospitalisation, with 85% of IBD sufferers in Europe having required special treatment in hospitals over the past five years. Furthermore, IBD can cause severe damage to the digestive tract, with at least half of all sufferers requiring surgery.

Despite these worrying facts, the level of awareness on IBD is rather low among EU citizens, which contributes to social isolation, reduced school attendance and reduced participation on the labour market among IBD sufferers.

The 2010-2011 Impact survey showed that around 25% of IBD sufferers in Europe experience some sort of discrimination. Another alarming finding in the survey is the level of participation on the labour market of those suffering from IBD, with the results showing that the disease leads to high levels of absenteeism and that 44% of respondents had even lost or been obliged to quit their jobs as a result of IBD. In addition to being an inconvenience for IBD sufferers and their families, low labour market participation and the high costs of treatment also place a significant economic burden on European society as a whole. The FP7-funded study entitled 'IBD Character' found that the annual aggregate costs of IBD exceed EUR 25 billion in Europe alone.

1. Given that the causes of and cure for IBD are still unknown and considering that treatment costs constitute a heavy burden on national healthcare systems and lead to significant losses in productivity, will the Commission advocate research — in particular pharmaceutical, environmental and nutrition-oriented research — on IBD under Horizon 2020 that would contribute to tackling this scientific challenge?
2. In terms of policy, does the Commission intend to place greater emphasis on IBD within the context of strategies geared towards chronic diseases, such as those identified during the reflection process on chronic diseases?
3. How does the Commission intend to assist Member States in improving the daily lives of IBD sufferers, in particular with regard to non-discrimination, improved working conditions, stress management and access to home schooling?

**Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission**  
(19 June 2014)

1. The Commission is aware of the heavy burden posed by Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) at worldwide level.

As part of FP7 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission has devoted over EUR 63 million to support research on IBD. The projects addressed, amongst other issues, the role of intestinal microbiota in the development of the disease and the identification of therapeutic targets.

Horizon 2020, — the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, will provide further opportunities to support research on IBD through its 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing' societal challenge. Information on current funding opportunities can be obtained at the Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(3)</sup>.

2. At this stage, the Commission does not intend to place a particular emphasis on any major chronic disease but pursues its discussions on chronic diseases along the lines presented in the conference conclusions of the 'chronic disease summit' <sup>(4)</sup> that took place in April 2014.
3. Directive 2000/78/EC <sup>(5)</sup> prohibits discrimination in employment based on 'disability'. The EU Court of Justice has never dealt with a case concerning IBD, but it has ruled that the concept of 'disability' may include a condition caused by an illness medically diagnosed as curable or incurable under certain conditions <sup>(6)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> The Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/major\\_chronic\\_diseases/docs/ev\\_20140403\\_mi\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/major_chronic_diseases/docs/ev_20140403_mi_en.pdf)

<sup>(5)</sup> Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27.11.2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, OJ L 303, of 2.12.2000, p. 16.

<sup>(6)</sup> Judgment of the Court of 11 April 2013 in Joined Cases C-335/11 and C-337/11, Ring & Werge, paragraph 47.

As regards education, Member States have full responsibility for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity, including the definition of rules about compulsory attendance. Home schooling is a legal option for parents in some countries. The EU is therefore not in a position to regulate on these issues.

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(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-004823/14**  
**à la Commission**  
**Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE), Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE) et Karima Delli (Verts/ALE)**  
(15 avril 2014)

*Objet:* Lutte contre l'esclavage moderne dans l'industrie du textile et du vêtement d'Inde du Sud

1. La Commission a-t-elle pris connaissance du document «Small Steps, Big Challenges — Update on (tackling) exploitation of girls and young women in the garment industry of South India» (Petites étapes, gros enjeux — Dernières informations sur (la lutte contre) l'exploitation des filles et des jeunes femmes dans l'industrie textile d'Inde du Sud) ainsi que des nombreuses autres publications traitant de «l'esclavage moderne» dont sont victimes environ 100 000 enfants et jeunes femmes fabriquant des vêtements pour le marché occidental <sup>(1)</sup>?
2. La Commission est-elle prête à s'attaquer d'urgence, au plus haut niveau, à ce grave et vaste problème de violation des Droits de l'homme dans le cadre de son dialogue avec les autorités indiennes, en vue d'entamer un effort conjoint d'éradication du travail des enfants, du travail en servitude et de l'exploitation dans la chaîne d'approvisionnement des marques européennes se fournissant auprès de l'industrie du textile et du vêtement d'Inde du Sud?
3. La Commission est-elle prête à amorcer un dialogue avec les marques textiles européennes et internationales, leurs organisations sectorielles, plusieurs initiatives communes et leurs parties prenantes dans le but d'adopter un plan d'action commun assorti d'une échéance pour lutter contre le travail des enfants, le travail en servitude et l'exploitation dans leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement d'Inde du Sud?
4. La Commission est-elle prête à promouvoir et à lancer des mesures exigeant plus de transparence de la part des entreprises textiles européennes en ce qui concerne les lieux d'approvisionnement, les fournisseurs directs et indirects et la participation des acteurs locaux, mais aussi les procédures d'audit et les mesures correctrices ainsi que les progrès réalisés dans leur mise en œuvre?
5. Dans le cadre de sa collaboration avec le gouvernement indien, d'une part, et l'industrie textile européenne, d'autre part, la Commission est-elle prête à discuter de mesures spéciales et à y œuvrer pour protéger les droits des personnes vulnérables, telles que les filles dalits («intouchables»), qui travaillent dans l'industrie du textile et du vêtement?
6. La Commission est-elle prête à travailler activement avec l'Organisation internationale du travail à des solutions locales pour éliminer l'exploitation et le travail en servitude dans la production textile et de vêtements de la région du Tamil Nadu?

**Réponse donnée par M. De Gucht au nom de la Commission**  
(9 juillet 2014)

La Commission renvoie aux réponses aux questions écrites E-001968/2014 et E-000021/2014 relatives au travail des enfants.

La Commission est consciente du fait que les conditions de travail dans l'industrie indienne du vêtement peuvent être particulièrement difficiles, notamment pour les groupes vulnérables. La ratification et la mise en œuvre effective des conventions fondamentales de l'Organisation internationale du travail, notamment sur l'âge minimum et sur les pires formes de travail des enfants, sont régulièrement évoquées lors du dialogue de haut niveau avec l'Inde. L'UE a fait savoir à plusieurs reprises que cette ratification constituerait un signal très important pour le monde, en conformité avec le statut de l'Inde en tant qu'acteur mondial majeur et partenaire stratégique de l'Europe. L'UE poursuit avec l'Inde un dialogue sur l'emploi et la politique sociale, qui porte également sur des sujets tels que la protection sociale et la santé et la sécurité au travail.

Aujourd'hui, dans l'UE, les entreprises peuvent adopter ou élaborer leurs propres codes de conduite concernant leurs pratiques d'achat et d'approvisionnement et le respect des normes internationales (notamment ISO 26000), sur une base volontaire. Comme indiqué dans le rapport <sup>(2)</sup> au Parlement européen et au Conseil du 25 septembre 2013, il ne semble pas nécessaire d'inclure des exigences de label social dans le règlement sur les produits textiles <sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.indianet.nl/pb140404.html> et [http://www.indianet.nl/sumangali\\_e.html](http://www.indianet.nl/sumangali_e.html)

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0656:FIN:FR:PDF>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:272:0001:0064:FR:PDF>

(Nederlandse versie)

**Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-004823/14**  
**aan de Commissie**  
**Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE), Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE) en Karima Delli (Verts/ALE)**  
(15 april 2014)

*Betreft:* Moderne slavernij in de textiel- en kledingindustrie in Zuid-India

1. Is de Commissie op de hoogte van het paper „Small Steps, Big Challenges — Update on (tackling) exploitation of girls and young women in the garment industry of South India” en diverse andere publicaties over de „moderne slavernij” van circa 100 000 kinderen en jonge vrouwen die kleding fabriceren voor de westerse markt <sup>(1)</sup>?
2. Is de Commissie bereid deze omvangrijke en ernstige mensenrechtenkwestie snel en op het hoogste niveau in de dialoog met de Indiase autoriteiten aan de orde te stellen, om samen te gaan werken aan het uitroeien van kinderarbeid, slavenarbeid en uitbuiting in de toeleveringsketen van de Europese merken die zich bevoorraden bij de Zuid-Indiase textiel- en kledingindustrie?
3. Is de Commissie bereid een dialoog te starten met Europese en internationale kledingmerken, hun sectorale organisaties, diverse gezamenlijke initiatieven en belanghebbenden, om een gezamenlijk, aan een tijdschema gebonden actieplan tegen kinderarbeid, slavenarbeid en uitbuiting in hun toeleveringsketens in Zuid-India overeen te komen?
4. Is de Commissie bereid maatregelen te bevorderen en te initiëren om transparantie te verlangen van de Europese kledingbedrijven over hun inkooplocaties, hun eerste en verdere toeleveranciers, de betrokkenheid van lokale belanghebbenden en hun controleprocedures, correctieplannen en de vorderingen die worden geboekt met de uitvoering hiervan?
5. Is de Commissie bereid in haar overleg met zowel de Indiase regering als de Europese kledingindustrie speciale maatregelen ter bescherming van de rechten van kwetsbare groepen zoals Dalit-meisjes (kastelozen) die werkzaam zijn in de textiel- en kledingindustrie te bespreken en uit te werken?
6. Is de Commissie bereid de IAO actief te betrekken bij de uitwerking van lokale oplossingen om uitbuiting en slavenarbeid in de textiel- en kledingproductie in Tamil Nadu uit te roeien?

**Antwoord van de heer De Gucht namens de Commissie**  
(9 juli 2014)

De Commissie verwijst naar haar antwoorden op de schriftelijke vragen E-001968/2014 en E-000021/2014 met betrekking tot kinderarbeid.

De Commissie is zich ervan bewust dat de werkomstandigheden in de Indiase kledingindustrie bijzonder hard kunnen zijn, met name voor kwetsbare groepen. De ratificatie en de daadwerkelijke uitvoering van de kernverdragen van de Internationale Arbeidsorganisatie, waaronder de verdragen betreffende de minimumleeftijd en de ergste vormen van kinderarbeid, worden regelmatig naar voren gebracht bij de dialoog op hoog niveau met India. De EU heeft meermaals laten weten dat dit een zeer belangrijk signaal zou geven aan de wereld dat zou aansluiten bij de status van India als wereldwijde speler en strategische partner van Europa. De EU onderhoudt een dialoog met India over werkgelegenheid en sociaal beleid, die ook onderwerpen bestrijkt zoals sociale zekerheid, gezondheid en veiligheid op het werk.

Vandaag kunnen ondernemingen in de EU zich op vrijwillige basis houden aan gedragscodes of deze zelf ontwikkelen op het terrein van bedrijfsaankopen en gedragscodes en de naleving van internationale normen (voornamelijk ISO 26000). Zoals aangegeven in het verslag <sup>(2)</sup> aan het Europees Parlement en de Raad van 25 september 2013 wordt het in het kader van de textielverordening <sup>(3)</sup> niet nodig geacht om algemene etiketteringsvoorschriften op te nemen.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.indianet.nl/pb140404e.html> en [http://www.indianet.nl/sumangali\\_e.html](http://www.indianet.nl/sumangali_e.html)

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0656:FIN:NL:PDF>.

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:272:0001:0064:NL:PDF>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004823/14  
to the Commission**

**Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE), Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE) and Karima Delli (Verts/ALE)**

(15 April 2014)

*Subject:* Tackling modern slavery in the South Indian textile and garment industry

1. Is the Commission aware of the paper 'Small Steps, Big Challenges — Update on (tackling) exploitation of girls and young women in the garment industry of South India' and various other publications on the 'modern slavery' of around 100 000 children and young women producing garments for the Western market <sup>(1)</sup>?
2. Is the Commission willing, as a matter of urgency, to take up this large-scale and serious human rights issue at the highest level in its dialogue with the Indian authorities, with a view to starting to work jointly on eradicating child labour, bonded labour and exploitation from the supply chain of European brands sourcing from the South Indian textile and garment industry?
3. Is the Commission willing to initiate a dialogue with European and international garment brands, their sectoral organisations, various joint initiatives and their stakeholders in order to agree to a joint, time-bound plan of action against child labour, bonded labour and exploitation in their supply chains in South India?
4. Is the Commission willing to promote and initiate measures to demand transparency from European garment companies with regard to sourcing locations, first- and further-tier suppliers and the involvement of local stakeholders, along with audit procedures and correction plans and the progress made in implementing them?
5. Is the Commission, as part of its engagement with both the Indian Government and the European garment industry, willing to discuss and work on special measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as Dalit ('outcaste') girls working in the textile and garment industry?
6. Is the Commission willing to actively involve the International Labour Organisation in working on local solutions to eradicate exploitation and bonded labour from textile and garment production in Tamil Nadu?

**Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission**

(9 July 2014)

The Commission refers to the replies to written questions E-001968/2014 and E-000021/2014 regarding child labour.

The Commission is aware that working conditions in Indian garment industry can be particularly difficult, especially for vulnerable groups. The ratification and effective implementation of the fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organisation, including on minimum age and on the worst forms of child labour, is regularly brought up at the high level dialogue with India. The EU has repeatedly communicated that it would constitute a very important signal to the world in line with India's status of key global player and Europe's strategic partner. The EU maintains a dialogue with India on employment and social policy that also covers subjects such as social protection and health and safety at work.

Today, in the EU, enterprises can adhere to or develop their own codes of conduct, regarding corporate purchasing and sourcing practices, and compliance with international standards (notably ISO 26000), on a voluntary basis. As indicated in the report <sup>(2)</sup> to the European Parliament and the Council of 25 September 2013, there is no perceived need to include social labelling requirements in the framework of the Textile Regulation <sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.indianet.nl/pb140404e.html> and [http://www.indianet.nl/sumangali\\_e.html](http://www.indianet.nl/sumangali_e.html)

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0656:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:272:0001:0064:EN:PDF>

(Versão portuguesa)

**Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-004824/14  
à Comissão (Vice-Presidente/Alta Representante)**

**Ana Gomes (S&D)**

(15 de abril de 2014)

Assunto: VP/HR — Os processos de Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev e de Aron Atabek no Cazaquistão

O pastor de sessenta e sete anos de idade Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev, que tem problemas de saúde, esteve em prisão preventiva durante nove meses. O pastor foi acusado de extremismo, de incitação ao ódio religioso e de dirigir uma associação religiosa ilegal. Foi condenado a quatro anos de prisão com pena suspensa por ter infligido de forma intencional ofensas corporais graves. O pastor foi internado sob coação num hospital psiquiátrico, em que lhe restringiram o seu direito de defesa e a possibilidade de receber cuidados médicos em tempo útil. Algumas organizações de defesa dos direitos humanos reconheceram Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev como sendo um preso político, tendo apelado para que a liberdade de consciência e de religião no Cazaquistão deixassem de ser limitadas.

Aron Atabek, célebre dissidente e poeta cazaque, bem como preso político, está preso já há mais de seis anos. Durante vários anos, esteve preso em regime de isolamento numa das prisões do regime mais rígidas do país. Embora estivesse preso, continuou a criticar, nas suas obras, o regime de Nursultan Nazarbayev, motivo pelo qual sofreu várias pressões e um duro tratamento por parte da administração. Em conformidade com a sentença do tribunal, o dissidente de sessenta e um anos de idade apenas será libertado em 2024.

1. Estabeleceu a UE contactos regulares com as pessoas mencionadas e com as respetivas famílias? Será que algum representante da delegação da UE visitou Aron Atabek na prisão?
2. Exerceu a VP/AR pressão sobre as autoridades cazaques, a fim de que estas incluíssem Aron Atabek na lista de pessoas abrangidas pela amnistia aquando da revisão e da promulgação de um subsequente ato legislativo em matéria de amnistia e solicitou ao Presidente do Cazaquistão que considerasse a possibilidade de conceder perdão a Aron Atabek, quanto mais não fosse por razões humanitárias?
3. Manifestou a VP/AR preocupação face às condições de detenção e à violação do direito de Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev a um processo equitativo e requereu a reapreciação do seu processo por parte das instâncias de recurso e a realização de um inquérito independente?

**Resposta dada pela Alta Representante/Vice-Presidente Catherine Ashton em nome da Comissão**

(10 de julho de 2014)

A AR/VP acompanha de perto a situação dos direitos humanos no Cazaquistão e aborda regularmente questões de direitos humanos nos seus contactos com as autoridades cazaques a todos os níveis, incluindo nas reuniões anuais do diálogo UE-Cazaquistão sobre direitos humanos. A AR/VP segue igualmente de perto um certo número de casos individuais que suscitam preocupações no Cazaquistão, incluindo os casos dos Senhores Aron Atabek e Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev.

A AR/VP foi informada de que o Senhor Atabek foi recentemente transferido para um estabelecimento prisional perto de Karaganda sem qualquer notificação à sua família e apesar de a sua família ter solicitado uma transferência para um estabelecimento nas proximidades da residência familiar em Almaty. A UE manifestou as suas preocupações relativamente ao tratamento reservado ao Senhor Atabek às autoridades do Cazaquistão, convidando-as a rever o seu estatuto.

A AR/VP, através da delegação da UE em Astana, tem vindo a acompanhar o caso do pastor Kashkumbayev desde a sua detenção, em maio de 2013, e os funcionários da delegação da UE assistiram regularmente às audiências em tribunal relativas ao seu caso durante cerca de três semanas em janeiro e fevereiro de 2014. Além disso, os representantes da delegação da UE reuniram-se com o advogado do referido pastor e com a sua mulher para debater o caso. A HR/VP informou as autoridades cazaques das suas preocupações relativas ao tratamento reservado ao pastor Kashkumbayev e solicitou que estas voltassem a examinar o seu caso.

A EU acompanha e continuará a acompanhar a evolução destes dois casos muito de perto e a encorajar as autoridades cazaques a reverem os casos de ambos, em consonância com os compromissos internacionais do Cazaquistão.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004824/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)**

**Ana Gomes (S&D)**

(15 April 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Cases of Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev and Aron Atabek in Kazakhstan

67-year-old pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev, who has health problems, was remanded in custody for nine months. The church minister faced charges of extremism, inciting religious hatred and leadership of an illegal religious association. He received a suspended sentence of four years' imprisonment on charges of intentionally causing grievous bodily harm. The pastor was forcibly placed in a psychiatric hospital, while his right to a defence and ability to obtain timely medical care were restricted. Human rights organisations recognised Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev as a political prisoner and are issuing calls to cease the restriction of freedom of conscience and religion in Kazakhstan.

Aron Atabek, well-known Kazakhstan dissident and poet, as well as political prisoner, has been behind bars for over six years now. For a number of years, he has been kept in a solitary confinement cell in one of the most rigid regime prisons of the country; despite his imprisonment, he has continued to criticise the regime of Nursultan Nazarbayev in his works, due to which he was subjected to various forms of pressure and harsh treatment from the administration. According to the court sentence, the 61-year-old dissident will only be allowed to walk free in 2024.

1. Has the EU established regular contacts with the abovementioned persons and their families? Have any representatives from the EU delegation visited Aron Atabek in prison?
2. Has the HR/VP pressed the Kazakh authorities for the inclusion of Aron Atabek on the list of persons to be subjected to amnesty during the revision and passing of a subsequent amnesty legislation bill, and called upon the President of Kazakhstan to consider the possibility of pardoning Aron Atabek, at least on humanitarian grounds?
3. Has the HR/VP shown concern regarding the violation of Kashkumbayev's right to a fair trial and the conditions of his detention, and requested the reconsideration of the case in the appellate instances and the conduct of an independent investigation?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(10 July 2014)

The HR/VP closely follows the human rights situation in Kazakhstan, and regularly raises human rights issues in its contacts with the Kazakh authorities at all levels, including in the annual meetings of the EU-Kazakhstan Human Rights Dialogue. The HR/VP also closely follows a number of individual cases of concern in Kazakhstan, including the cases of Mr Aron Atabek and Mr Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev.

The HR/VP has been informed that Mr Atabek was recently transferred to a prison colony near Karaganda without any notification being given to his family, and despite his family enquiring about a transfer to a facility near the family home in Almaty. The EU has conveyed its concerns regarding the treatment of Mr Atabek to the Kazakh authorities, and encouraged them to review his status.

The HR/VP, through the EU Delegation in Astana, has been monitoring the case of Pastor Kashkumbayev since his arrest in May 2013, and EU Delegation officials attended the court hearings in his case on a regular basis for almost three weeks in January and February 2014. Moreover, EU Delegation representatives have met with the Pastor's lawyer and his wife to discuss the case. The HR/VP has informed the Kazakh authorities of its concerns regarding the treatment of Pastor Kashkumbayev and encouraged them to review his case.

The EU is and will continue to follow the developments in these two cases very closely and to encourage the Kazakh authorities to review the cases of both individuals, in line with the international commitments of Kazakhstan.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004827/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(15 ta' April 2014)

Suġġett: L-implimentazzjoni tal-Patt Fiskali

Il-Patt Fiskali jirrikjedi lill-Istati Membri tal-UE biex jgħaddu, fi żmien sena mid-dhul fis-seħh għalihom tat-trattat, "liġi tal-implimentazzjoni" domestika li tistabbilixxi mekkaniżmu awtomatiku ta' korrezzjoni, ibbażat fuq ir-riżultati ta' sorveljanza li ssir kull xahar minn kunsill fiskali konsultattiv indipendenti, sabiex jiggarantixxu li l-baġit nazzjonali tagħhom ikun ibbilanċjat jew ikollu bilanċ pożittiv skont id-definizzjoni stabbilita fil-Patt.

Il-Kummissjoni għandha informazzjoni dwar il-miżuri mehuda mill-Istati Membri tal-UE kollha biex jittrasponi l-miżuri tal-Patt Fiskali fil-liġi domestika tiegħu?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Kallas f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(10 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni bhalissa qiegħda tanalizza d-dispożizzjonijiet nazzjonali tal-Partijiet Kontraenti bl-għan li tivvaluta l-konformità tagħhom mal-Artikolu 3.2 tat-Trattat dwar l-Istabbiltà, il-Koordinazzjoni u l-Governanza (TSKG) fl-Unjoni Ekonomika u Monetarja, kif meħtieġ mill-Artikolu 8.1 tat-TSKG. L-analiżi ser isservi bħala bażi għal rapport li l-Kummissjoni se tippreżenta fi żmien xieraq, kif meħtieġ mill-Artikolu 8.1 tat-TSKG.

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*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-004827/14  
to the Commission**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

*(15 April 2014)*

*Subject:* Fiscal Compact implementation

The Fiscal Compact requires the EU Member States to enact, within one year of the date the treaty enters into force for them, a domestic 'implementation law' establishing an automatic correction mechanism based on the results of monthly surveillance, which should be carried out by an independent fiscal advisory council, so as to guarantee that their national budget is balanced or in surplus in accordance with the definition set out in the Compact.

Does the Commission have information on the measures taken by all the EU Member States to transpose the measures of the Fiscal Compact into its domestic law?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission**

*(10 July 2014)*

The Commission is currently in the process of analysing national provisions of Contracting Parties with a view to assessing their compliance with Article 3.2 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance (TSCG) in the Economic and Monetary Union, as requested by Article 8.1 of the TSCG. The analysis will serve as a basis for a report that the Commission will present in due time, as requested by Article 8.1 of the TSCG.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004882/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Marlene Mizzi (S&D)**  
(16 ta' April 2014)

Suġġett: Il-Memorandum ta' Budapest tal-1994

Fl-1994 ir-Renju Unit, l-Istati Uniti u r-Russja wiegħdu solennement li jirrispettaw is-sovranità u l-fruntieri tal-Ukraina filwaqt li l-Ukraina tirrinunzja għall-armi nukleari. Għaliex dan il-memorandum mhux qed jissewma bhala preludju biex tonqos it-tensjoni fil-kriżi tal-Ukraina?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mir-Rappreżentant Għoli/il-Viċi President Ashton f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(26 ta' Ġunju 2014)

Fil-konklużjonijiet tagħhom <sup>(1)</sup> tat-3 ta' Marzu 2014, il-Ministri tal-Affarijiet Barranin tal-UE kkundannaw il-vjolazzjoni ċara tas-sovranità u l-integrità territorjali tal-Ukraina mill-forzi armati Russi kif ukoll l-awtorizzazzjoni mogħtija mill-Kunsill tal-Federazzjoni tar-Russja għall-użu tal-forzi armati fit-territorju tal-Ukraina. Dawn l-azzjonijiet fuq il-peniżola Krimea u fil-Lvant tal-Ukraina huma ksur ċar tal-Karta tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti u l-Att Finali ta' Helsinki tal-OSKE, kif ukoll l-impenji speċifiċi tar-Russja li tirrispetta s-sovranità u l-integrità territorjali tal-Ukraina skont il-Memorandum ta' Budapest tal-1994 u t-Trattat bilaterali dwar il-Hbiberija, Kooperazzjoni u Shubija tal-1997. Huma wkoll ksur ċar tal-Kostituzzjoni tal-Ukraina, li speċifikament tirrikonoxxi l-integrità territorjali tal-pajjiż u tiddikkjara li r-Repubblika Awtonoma tal-Krimea tista' biss torganizza referenda dwar kwistjonijiet lokali imma mhux dwar il-modifika tal-konfigurazzjoni territorjali tal-Ukraina. Il-Ministri tal-Affarijiet Barranin tal-UE sejhju lir-Russja sabiex tirtira minnufih il-forzi armati tagħha għaž-żoni ta' stazzjonar permanenti tagħhom, skont il-Ftehim dwar l-Istatus u l-Kondizzjonijiet tal-Istazzjonar tal-Flotta tal-Baħar l-Iswed fit-territorju tal-Ukraina tal-1997. Huma appellaw ukoll lir-Russja biex taqbel mat-talba tal-Ukraina li jkun hemm konsultazzjonijiet, kif previst fit-Trattat bilaterali dwar il-Hbiberija, Kooperazzjoni u Shubija tal-1997, u biex tiehu sehem f'konsultazzjonijiet urġenti fost il-firmatarji kollha u dawk aderenti għall-Memorandum ta' Budapest tal-1994.

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141291.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141291.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004882/14  
to the Commission  
Marlene Mizzi (S&D)  
(16 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Budapest Memorandum of 1994

In 1994 the United Kingdom, the US and Russia solemnly promised to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and borders in exchange for it giving up nuclear weapons. Why is this memorandum not being mentioned as a prelude to de-escalation of the Ukraine crisis?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission  
(26 June 2014)**

In their conclusions <sup>(1)</sup> of 3 March 2014, EU Foreign Ministers condemned the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council of Russia for the use of the armed forces on the territory of Ukraine. These actions on the Crimean peninsula and in Eastern Ukraine are in clear breach of the UN Charter and the OSCE Helsinki Final Act, as well as of Russia's specific commitments to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997. They are also a clear breach of the Ukrainian constitution, which specifically recognises the territorial integrity of the country and states that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea can only organise referenda on local matters but not on the modification of the territorial configuration of Ukraine. EU Foreign Ministers called on Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997. They also called on Russia to agree to the request by Ukraine to hold consultations, as foreseen in the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997, and to take part in urgent consultations among all signatories and adherents of the Budapest Memorandum of 1994.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141291.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/141291.pdf)

(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004970/14**  
**lill-Kunsill**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

(16 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Is-sikurezza tal-ikel fil-prodotti agrikoli

L-objettiv tal-UE fir-rigward tas-sikurezza tal-ikel huwa li thares is-saħħa u l-interessi tal-konsumatur filwaqt li tiggarrantixxi l-funzjonament bla xkiel tas-suq uniku.

Id-Direttiva tal-Kunsill 91/676/KEE għandha l-għan li tiproteġi l-ilma mit-tniġġis ikkawżat permezz ta' nitrati minn sorsi agrikoli permezz ta' għadd ta' miżuri li huma r-responsabbiltà tal-Istati Membri. Dawn il-miżuri jinvolve l-monitoraġġ tal-ilmijiet tal-wiċċ u l-ilma ta' taht l-art, l-identifikazzjoni ta' żoni vulnerabbli, l-introduzzjoni ta' kodiċi ta' prattiki agrikoli tajbin, l-adozzjoni ta' programmi ta' azzjoni u l-evalwazzjoni tal-azzjonijiet implimentati.

Jista' l-Kunsill jipprovdi informazzjoni dwar il-miżuri li ttiehdu mill-Istati Membri kollha tal-UE għall-implimentazzjoni tad-dispożizzjonijiet tad-direttiva, u jindika kif id-Direttiva qed tiġi mmonitorjata fl-Istati Membri kollha tal-UE?

**Tweġiba**

(8 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni, bhala l-ghassies tat-Trattati, hija responsabbli għas-supervizzjoni tal-applikazzjoni tad-dritt tal-Unjoni mill-Istati Membri. L-Onorevoli Membru hija għalhekk mistiedna tindirizza l-mistoqsija tagħha lill-Kummissjoni.

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*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-004970/14  
to the Council**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

*(16 April 2014)*

*Subject:* Food safety in agricultural products

The objective of EU food safety is to protect consumer health and interests while guaranteeing the smooth operation of the single market.

Council Directive 91/676/EEC aims to protect waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources through a number of measures incumbent on Member States. These measures involve monitoring surface waters and groundwater, designating vulnerable zones, introducing codes of good agricultural practice, adopting action programmes and evaluating the actions implemented.

Can the Council provide information on the measures that have been taken by all the EU Member States to implement the provisions of the directive, and indicate how the directive is being monitored in all the EU Member States?

**Reply**

*(8 July 2014)*

The Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, is responsible for overseeing Member States' application of Union law. The Honourable Member is therefore invited to address her question to the Commission.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-004996/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(16 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Is-sikurezza tal-ikel fil-prodotti agrikoli

L-objettiv tal-UE fir-rigward tas-sikurezza tal-ikel huwa li thares is-saħħa u l-interessi tal-konsumatur filwaqt li tiggarantixxi l-funzjonament bla xkiel tas-suq uniku.

Id-Direttiva tal-Kunsill 91/676/KEE għandha l-għan li tipproteġi l-ilma mit-tniġġis ikkawżat permezz ta' nitrati minn sorsi agrikoli permezz ta' għadd ta' miżuri li huma r-responsabbiltà tal-Istati Membri. Dawn il-miżuri jinvolve l-monitoraġġ tal-ilmijiet tal-wiċċ u l-ilma ta' taht l-art, l-identifikazzjoni ta' żoni vulnerabbli, l-introduzzjoni ta' kodiċi ta' prattiki agrikoli tajbin, l-adozzjoni ta' programmi ta' azzjoni u l-evalwazzjoni tal-azzjonijiet implimentati.

Tista' l-Kummissjoni tippovdi informazzjoni dwar il-miżuri li ttiehdu mill-Istati Membri kollha tal-UE għall-implimentazzjoni tad-dispożizzjonijiet tad-direttiva, u tindika kif id-Direttiva qed tiġi mmonitorjata fl-Istati Membri kollha tal-UE?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Potočnik f'isem il-Kummissjoni**  
(14 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni tissorvelja l-evoluzzjoni tat-tniġġis tal-ilma kkawżat min-nitrati abbażi tal-informazzjoni li waslet mill-Istati Membri skont l-Artikolu 10 tad-Direttiva. Ir-rapport adottat u ppubblikat kull erba' snin mill-Kummissjoni skont l-Artikolu 11 tad-Direttiva jipprovdi harsa ġenerali lejn l-implimentazzjoni tad-Direttiva dwar in-Nitrati<sup>(1)</sup> fl-Istati Membri, inklużi l-miżuri mehuda u l-monitoraġġ. L-aktar wiehed reċenti ġie adottat f'Settembru 2013 u jkopri l-perjodu 2008-2011<sup>(2)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Id-Direttiva 91/676/KEE, ĠU L 375, 31.12.1991.

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/MT/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0683>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004996/14  
to the Commission  
Roberta Metsola (PPE)  
(16 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Food safety in agricultural products

The objective of EU food safety is to protect consumer health and interests while guaranteeing the smooth operation of the single market.

Council Directive 91/676/EEC aims to protect waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources through a number of measures incumbent on Member States. These measures involve monitoring surface waters and groundwater, designating vulnerable zones, introducing codes of good agricultural practice, adopting action programmes and evaluating the actions implemented.

Can the Commission provide information on the measures that have been taken by all the EU Member States to implement the provisions of the directive, and indicate how the directive is being monitored in all the EU Member States?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission  
(14 July 2014)**

The Commission monitors the evolution of water pollution with nitrates on the basis of the information received from Member States pursuant to Article 10 of the directive. An overview of the implementation of Nitrates Directive <sup>(1)</sup> in the Member States, including measures taken and monitoring, is provided by the report that the Commission adopts and makes public every four years pursuant to Article 11 of the directive. The most recent one was adopted in September 2013 and covers the period 2008-2011 <sup>(2)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 91/676/EEC, OJ L 375, 31.12.1991.

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0683>



(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-005032/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**  
(16 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Discriminarea femeilor în Irak

La 25 februarie 2014, Consiliul de Miniștri din Irak a aprobat un proiect de propunere legislativă care restricționează drepturile femeilor în materie de moștenire și drepturi părintești, precum și alte drepturi după divorț, proiect ce permite fetelor să se căsătorească de la vârsta de nouă ani.

Proiectul de lege, numit Legea Jaafari privind Statutul personal, are la bază principiile școlii Jaafari în domeniul jurisprudenței religioase șite care discriminează femeile și încalcă drepturile omului.

La 8 martie, Ziua Internațională a Femeii, Rețeaua femeilor irakiene, o asociație de grupuri pentru drepturile femeilor, a organizat proteste, declarând 8 martie zi de doliu în Irak.

Proiectul de lege urmează să fie votat de parlament în perioada următoare.

Având în vedere faptul că pentru perioada 2014-2020, UE a alocat 75 de milioane de euro pentru consolidarea drepturilor omului și a statului de drept în Irak, ce acțiuni poate să adopte și va adopta Comisia pentru a asigura protecția fetelor și a femeilor în cadrul legislativ irakian, în conformitate cu obligațiile sale internaționale?

**Răspuns dat de dna Ashton, Înalt Reprezentant/Vicepreședinte în numele Comisiei**  
(11 iunie 2014)

UE este conștientă de relațiile privind dezbaterile pe marginea proiectului de lege Jaafari privind statutul personal și urmărește îndeaproape această chestiune. Cu toate acestea, potrivit celor mai recente informații, pare foarte puțin probabil ca proiectul de lege să fie aprobat de Consiliul Reprezentanților, deoarece inițiativa pare să provină din partea unui grup restrâns și nu va obține majoritatea necesară de voturi în Parlament.

UE își exprimă, în mod sistematic, preocupările privind drepturile omului față de autoritățile irakiene, atât în mod public, cât și prin canale diplomatice. Drepturile omului, inclusiv drepturile femeilor și egalitatea de șanse între femei și bărbați sunt, de asemenea, discutate în contextul subcomitetului privind democrația și drepturile omului din cadrul Acordului de parteneriat și cooperare UE-Irak, a cărei primă reuniune, în noiembrie 2013, a suscitât preocupări specifice privind proiectul de lege Jaafari.

UE sprijină, de asemenea, Irakul în vederea îmbunătățirii egalității între femei și bărbați prin asistența pentru dezvoltare pe care o acordă. Programele actuale și viitoare abordează acest aspect în mod orizontal, iar egalitatea de șanse între femei și bărbați va continua să facă parte din activitățile în domeniul drepturilor omului și al statului de drept, al educației primare și secundare și al „energiei pentru toți”.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005032/14  
to the Commission**

**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**

(16 April 2014)

*Subject:* Discrimination of women in Iraq

A draft legislation proposal restricting the rights of women in matters of inheritance, limiting their parental and other rights after divorce, and allowing girls to be married from the age of nine, was approved by the Iraqi Council of Ministers on 25 February 2014.

The draft law, called the Jaafari Personal Status Law, is based on the principles of the Jaafari school of Shia religious jurisprudence, which discriminates against women and violates human rights.

On 8 March 2014 — International Women's Day — the Iraqi Women's Network, an association of women's rights groups, held protests, calling it a day of mourning in Iraq.

The Iraqi parliament is soon expected to vote on the draft legislation.

Taking into account the fact that, for the period 2014-2020, the EU has earmarked EUR 75 million to efforts to strengthen the situation for human rights and the rule of law in Iraq, what action can and will the Commission take to ensure that Iraq's legal framework protects women and girls a manner that is in line with the country's international obligations?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(11 June 2014)

The EU is well aware of the reported debates around the proposed Jaafari draft law on Personal Status and follows the issue closely. However, according to the latest information, it looks highly unlikely that the bill will be approved by the Council of Representatives, since the initiative seems to be coming from a small group and will not get the necessary majority of votes in the parliament.

The EU consistently voices its concerns on human rights to the Iraqi authorities, both publicly and through diplomatic channels. Human rights, including Women's rights and gender issues are also discussed in the context of the sub-committee on Democracy and Human Rights of the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the first meeting of which, in November 2013, raised specific concerns on the Jaafari draft law.

The EU is also supporting Iraq in enhancing gender equality through its development assistance. Current and future programmes are tackling this issue in a horizontal manner and gender equality will continue to be part of the activities in the fields of human rights and rule of law, primary and secondary education and 'energy for all'.

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(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-005033/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**  
(16 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Căsătoria copiilor în Malawi

În martie 2014, Human Rights Watch a prezentat un raport detaliat cu privire la situația căsătoriilor copiilor în Malawi. Din cauza nivelului ridicat de sărăcie, fete minore sunt obligate de familiile lor să abandoneze studiile pentru a se căsători. În perioada 2010-2013, cel puțin 40 000 de fete aflate încă în ciclul primar, și 10 000 de fete din ciclul secundar au părăsit școala pentru a se căsători, în anumite cazuri, pentru că erau însărcinate. Multe dintre aceste fete sunt victime ale violenței conjugale sau contractează HIV.

Într-un comunicat de presă din martie 2013, Comisia a afirmat că în perioada 2008-2013 a investit suma de 146 de milioane EUR în programele de combatere a HIV/SIDA și de promovare a egalității de gen, printre alte obiective. Având în vedere acest context, ar putea Comisia să răspundă la următoarele întrebări:

1. Care sunt programele care au beneficiat de fondurile investite în combaterea HIV/SIDA și de promovare a egalității de gen în Malawi și care este procedura privind aceste programe care încep în 2014?
2. Cum va sprijini actualul plan al guvernului din Malawi de a elabora un nou proiect de lege în domeniul educației menit să mențină fetele din Malawi în școală?

**Răspuns dat de dl Piebalgs în numele Comisiei**  
(13 iunie 2014)

Căsătoriile la o vârstă precoce reprezintă o problemă în Malawi, având consecințe care merg de la părăsirea timpurie a școlii de către fete până la expunerea acestora la acte de violență, infectarea cu HIV și sarcini precoce. UE abordează aceste aspecte prin diferite programe. Mai multe informații cu privire la acestea sunt disponibile în anexă.

UE contribuie la Fondul global (GFATM) de luptă împotriva HIV/SIDA, tuberculozei și malariei. GFATM finanțează, printre altele, achiziția de antiretrovirale și programele care se concentrează pe sexualitatea tinerilor și pe legătura dintre HIV/SIDA și drepturile la sănătate sexuală și reproductivă ca un instrument de emancipare a fetelor cu privire la HIV/SIDA.

La nivel subregional, UE colaborează cu Programul Comun al Națiunilor Unite pentru HIV/SIDA (UNAIDS) și cu Departamentul pentru nutriție și pentru combaterea HIV/SIDA din cadrul guvernului malawian cu scopul de a elabora un plan de consolidare a capacităților la nivel național pentru a combate HIV/SIDA și pentru a promova totodată egalitatea de gen. Un alt program regional include diverse acțiuni, printre care și sprijinul pentru integrarea drepturilor la sănătate sexuală și reproductivă și a drepturilor persoanelor infectate cu HIV în documentele de politică națională. Alte rezultate înregistrate până în prezent includ: reducerea numărului de persoane care întrerup tratamentul cu antiretrovirale, creșterea ratei de utilizare a serviciilor de planificare familială și creșterea gradului de sensibilizare a fetelor cu privire la legătura dintre HIV/SIDA și drepturile la sănătate sexuală și reproductivă.

În ceea ce privește, mai precis, întrebarea privind sprijinul pentru menținerea fetelor în școli, UE contribuie la Programul pentru egalitatea de șanse între femei și bărbați și emanciparea femeilor (GEWE) alături de Fondul ONU pentru Populație (UNFPA) și de Ministerul pentru Egalitate de Gen, Copii și Bunăstare Socială. Acțiunile întreprinse în cadrul acestui program includ sprijinirea finalizării legii privind căsătoria, divorțul și familia. De asemenea, UE ajută la menținerea fetelor în școli în anumite districte-țintă, de exemplu, prin acordarea de asistență în vederea readmiterii fetelor care au părăsit școala, prin furnizarea de materiale de învățare pentru fete, prin achitarea taxelor de școlarizare etc.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005033/14  
to the Commission  
Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)  
(16 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Child marriage in Malawi

In March 2014, Human Rights Watch released a detailed report about the situation of child marriage in Malawi. Prompted by the high level of poverty, underage girls are forced by their families to abandon their education in order to marry. Between 2010 and 2013, at least 40 000 girls still in primary school, and 10 000 girls in secondary school, left school to be married, in some cases because they were pregnant. Many of these girls are subjected to violence in their marriages or end up contracting HIV.

The Commission stated in a press release in March 2013 that in the period 2008-2013 it invested EUR 146 million in programmes to fight HIV-AIDS and support gender promotion, among other aims. Against this background, could the Commission answer the following:

1. What programmes have benefitted from the money invested in fighting HIV-AIDS and supporting gender promotion in Malawi, and what is the course of action regarding these programmes starting in 2014?
2. How will it support the current Malawi Government's plan to develop a new education bill intended to help keep Malawian girls in school?

**Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission  
(13 June 2014)**

Child marriage is an issue in Malawi with consequences ranging from taking girls out of school, exposure to violence and HIV and early pregnancy. These aspects are tackled by the EU through various programmes on which more information is provided in the annex.

The EU contributes to the Global Fund (GF) for HIV-AIDS and Malaria. The GF, *inter alia*, funds the procurement of Anti retrovirals (ART) and programmes with an emphasis on youth sexuality and linking HIV-AIDS to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR/HIV) as a means of empowering the girl child on issues of HIV-AIDS.

At sub-regional level, the EU is working with UNAIDS and the Department of Nutrition and HIV-AIDS (DNHA), to develop a national capacity building plan to respond to HIV-AIDS, with links to gender promotion. Another regional programme includes various actions, among which support for the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health rights in national policy documents. Other results include: reduction in defaulters in ARTs, increased utilisation of family planning services and increasing girls' awareness of SRHR/HIV.

Concerning more specifically the question on support to keeping girls in schools, the EU is contributing to the Gender and Women's Empowerment Programme (GEWE) with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare. Actions include supporting the finalisation of the Marriage, Divorce, and Family Bill. It is also providing assistance to keeping girls in schools in the target districts for instance by providing assistance to the readmission of drop out girls, supporting girls with learning materials and school fees, etc.

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(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-005034/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**  
(16 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Libertatea de exprimare în Iordania

În *World Report 2014*, organizația Human Rights Wach relatează că autoritățile iordaniene nu au reușit încă să actualizeze codul penal al țării în conformitate cu amendamentele constituționale din 2011, care asigură dreptul la libertatea de exprimare pentru toți cetățenii iordanieni. La 2 iunie 2013, autoritățile au fost în măsură să blocheze peste 260 de site-uri de știri care refuzaseră să se înregistreze în conformitate cu legislația actuală a țării. În temeiul codului penal actual, în vigoare din 1960, cetățenii care protestează pașnic împotriva autorităților sau a regelui, verbal sau în scris, pot fi urmăriți cu ușurință în justiție pentru „subminarea regimului politic”.

Într-un comunicat de presă din data de 21 noiembrie 2013, Comisia a menționat că Iordaniei urmează să-i fie alocată suma de 21 milioane euro, pentru un program din primăvara anului 2014, în sprijinul reformelor pe care țara este în curs să le introducă.

1. Ce programe de promovare a libertății de exprimare în Iordania au fost finanțate de Comisie?
2. În ce mod va proceda Comisia pentru a se asigura că autoritățile iordaniene vor revizui codul penal în conformitate cu amendamentele constituționale din 2011?

**Răspuns dat de dl Füle în numele Comisiei**  
(3 iulie 2014)

1. În luna noiembrie 2013, între UE și guvernul iordanian a fost semnat un acord de finanțare în valoare de 10 milioane EUR pe tema „Societatea civilă și mass-media”. Prima componentă a programului urmărește, prin intermediul unui mecanism al societății civile, consolidarea capacității organizațiilor din cadrul comunității și a organizațiilor neguvernamentale de a se angaja, a-i susține și a-i sensibiliza pe cetățeni cu privire la drepturile lor sociale, economice și politice, pentru a le permite să participe la viața politică a țării. A doua componentă se concentrează pe sectorul mass-media ca platformă pentru dialogul democratic și instrument esențial pentru transparență și responsabilitate într-o societate democratică.

2. În Raportul privind progresele înregistrate în domeniul PEV pentru 2013, Iordania este invitată să modifice dispozițiile relevante din codul penal astfel încât cazurile legate de nerespectarea libertății de exprimare și a libertății presei să nu mai fie deferite instanțelor pentru securitatea statului. Această chestiune va continua să se înscrie pe agenda dialogului dintre UE și Iordania. Ca ultim punct, în 2013 a fost semnat, de asemenea, un acord de finanțare în valoare de 30 de milioane EUR pentru un nou proiect al UE intitulat „Sprijin pentru reforma sistemului judiciar în Iordania”, care va permite UE să își intensifice acțiunile vizând modernizarea sistemului judiciar.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005034/14  
to the Commission**

**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**

(16 April 2014)

*Subject:* Freedom of speech in Jordan

In *World Report 2014*, Human Rights Watch reports that the Jordanian authorities have not yet managed to update the country's penal code in accordance with constitutional amendments from 2011 ensuring the right to freedom of speech to all Jordanian civilians. On 2 June 2013 the authorities were able to block over 260 news websites that refused to be registered in compliance with the country's current law. Under the current penal code, in force since 1960, civilians protesting peacefully against the authorities or the King, whether in speech or in writing, can easily be prosecuted for 'undermining the political regime'.

The Commission mentioned in a press release dated 21 November 2013 that EUR 21 million will be allocated to Jordan for a spring 2014 development programme in support of reforms that the country is currently undertaking.

1. What programmes promoting freedom of speech in Jordan have been financed by the Commission?
2. How will the Commission make sure that the Jordanian authorities will revise the penal code in accordance with the 2011 constitutional amendments?

**Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission**

(3 July 2014)

1. A Financing Agreement for EUR 10 million was signed in November 2013 between the EU and the Jordanian government covering the theme of 'Civil Society and Media'. The first component of the programme seeks through a civil society mechanism to strengthen the capacity of community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations to engage, advocate and build awareness among citizens about their social, economic and political rights in order to help citizens to participate in the political life of the country. The second component focuses on the media sector as a platform for democratic dialogue and a crucial instrument to transparency and accountability in a democratic society.
  2. The 2013 ENP Progress Report invites Jordan to amend relevant provisions of the Penal Code such that violations relating to freedom of expression and freedom of the media are no longer referred to the State Security Court. This issue will continue to be on the agenda of the dialogue between the EU and Jordan. Finally a Financing Agreement worth EUR 30 million for a new EU project 'Support to the Justice Reform in Jordan' was also signed in 2013 and will allow the EU to deepen its actions geared towards the modernisation of the Justice system.
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(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-005035/14  
adresată Comisiei**

**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**

(16 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Situația drepturilor omului în Sri Lanka

În septembrie 2013, Organizația Națiunilor Unite a semnalat încălcări sistematice ale drepturilor omului comise de guvernul din Sri Lanka și de președintele acestei țări, Mahinda Rajapaksa. În 2014, numeroși activiști au fost în continuare supuși abuzurilor. La 17 martie 2014, doi dintre activiștii cei mai importanți au fost arestați de către autoritățile de poliție în temeiul legii anti-terorism.

Ca răspuns la întrebarea scrisă E-012893/2013, Vicepreședintele/Înaltul Reprezentant, Catherine Ashton a declarat, pe 17 ianuarie 2014, că „aspectele legate de drepturile omului au fost, de asemenea, în prim plan în dialogul UE cu autoritățile din Sri Lanka, la recenta reuniune a Comisiei mixte din 3 decembrie”.

Ținând seama de turnura negativă pe care au luat-o evenimentele din Sri Lanka, cum intenționează Comisia să reacționeze la abuzurile autorităților din Sri Lanka pentru ca situația să nu degenereze și mai mult?

**Răspuns dat de Înaltul Reprezentant/doamna vicepreședinte Ashton în numele Comisiei**

(20 iunie 2014)

Distinsa doamnă deputat este rugată să consulte următorul răspuns: E-005338/2014.

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*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-005035/14  
to the Commission**

**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**

*(16 April 2014)*

*Subject:* Human rights issues in Sri Lanka

In September 2013 the United Nations reported on constant breaches of human rights committed by the Sri Lankan Government and by its President, Mahinda Rajapaksa. Numerous activists continue to be abused in 2014. On 17 March 2014 two of the most prominent activists were arrested by police authorities acting under the anti-terrorism law.

In answer to Written Question E-012893/2013, Vice-President/High Representative Catherine Ashton stated on 17 January 2014 that 'human rights issues were also given prominence in EU dialogue with the Sri Lankan authorities at the recent Joint Commission meeting on 3 December'.

Taking into account the negative spin that is quickly being put on events in Sri Lanka, how does the Commission intend to react to the abuse of the Sri Lanka authorities so that the situation does not degenerate further?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

*(20 June 2014)*

The Honourable Member is referred to the following reply: E-005338/2014.

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(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-005037/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**  
(16 aprilie 2014)

**Subiect:** Incălcări ale drepturilor omului comise de poliția etiopiană

În octombrie 2013, organizația Human Rights Watch a semnalat încălcarea gravă a drepturilor omului, legată de tratamentul necorespunzător al activiștilor, jurnaliștilor și opoziționarilor politici aflați în detenție în Etiopia. Un raport anual complet referitor la Etiopia, redactat la o dată ulterioară de aceeași organizație, a menționat faptul că situația din țară nu s-a schimbat în ceea ce privește abuzurile comise de autoritățile polițienești despre care s-a relatat.

La 8 ianuarie 2014, Vicepreședintele Comisiei/Înaltul Reprezentant al Uniunii pentru afaceri externe și politica de securitate, Catherine Ashton, a răspuns la întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-012956/2013 privind utilitatea fondurilor oferite de Comisie pentru programele de dezvoltare din Etiopia, afirmând că asistența umanitară a UE se bazează pe principiile umanității, neutralității, imparțialității și independenței, iar intervențiile se bazează pe nevoi și se concentrează asupra populațiilor celor mai vulnerabile.

1. Având în vedere Proclamația privind organizațiile caritative și asociațiile, adoptată de autoritățile etiopiene în 2009, ajunge finanțarea furnizată de Comisie la persoanele care au nevoie de ea prin cele mai eficiente canale?
2. În ce mod intenționează Comisia să inițieze reformele, deosebit de necesare, din domeniul drepturilor omului, pe care le merită populația etiopiană?

**Răspuns dat de Înaltul Reprezentant/doamna vicepreședinte Ashton în numele Comisiei**  
(13 iunie 2014)

UE urmărește îndeaproape situația drepturilor omului în Etiopia, mai ales aspectele legate de spațiul politic și de libertatea de exprimare, de asociere și a presei.

În acest context, la 6 mai 2014, purtătorul de cuvânt al SEAE a emis o declarație în care își exprima îngrijorarea „cu privire la recenta arestare a unor bloggeri, jurnaliști și membri ai opoziției” și cerea autorităților „să se asigure că procedurile se desfășoară în conformitate cu legislația etiopiană, precum și cu normele internaționale și regionale”. De asemenea, declarația a reamintit „importanța protejării spațiului destinat dialogului politic veritabil și a creării unui mediu în care vocile divergente din toate categoriile societății își pot exprima liber punctele de vedere”.

În general, considerăm că cea mai bună modalitate de a îmbunătăți situația drepturilor omului în Etiopia este prin intermediul dialogului cu guvernul și prin acordarea de asistență direcționată pentru dezvoltare. UE îi împărtășește în mod repetat guvernului etiopian preocupările pe care le are în acest sens, inclusiv la cel mai înalt nivel, îndeosebi în cadrul reuniunilor de dialog politic desfășurate în temeiul articolului 8. În plus, delegația UE monitorizează procesele intentate jurnaliștilor și membrilor opoziției. În ceea ce privește cooperarea pentru dezvoltare, UE utilizează o combinație de instrumente și de canale pentru a ajuta grupurile-țintă de populație. Acestea includ asigurarea sprijinului prin intermediul guvernului, de exemplu în ceea ce privește furnizarea de servicii sociale de bază, și prin intermediul unor organizații internaționale, a unor ONG-uri și a unor organizații ale societății civile (OSC). În plus, UE este copreședinte al grupului de lucru pentru societatea civilă și facilitează astfel dialogul între guvern și organizațiile societății civile. Fondul UE pentru societatea civilă sprijină OSC-urile care lucrează în vederea elaborării unor abordări bazate pe guvernanta și pe respectarea drepturilor omului.

UE va continua să urmărească îndeaproape situația drepturilor omului în Etiopia și să-și exprime preocupările în dialogurile cu guvernul etiopian la nivelul corespunzător.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005037/14  
to the Commission**

**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**

(16 April 2014)

*Subject:* Human rights violations by the Ethiopian police

In October 2013 Human Rights Watch reported on the serious breach of human rights regarding the poor treatment of activists, journalists and political opponents detained in Ethiopia. Since then, a complete annual report on Ethiopia, written by the same organisation, has noted that the situation in the country regarding reported abuses by police authorities has not changed.

On 8 January 2014, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, answered Written Question E-012956/2013 concerning the usefulness of the funds that the Commission is offering for development programmes in Ethiopia, stating that 'EU humanitarian assistance is based on the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence; interventions are need-based and target most vulnerable populations'.

1. In view of the Charities and Societies Proclamation which was passed by the Ethiopian authorities in 2009, is the funding provided by the Commission reaching the people who need it through the most efficient channels?
2. How does the Commission intend to initiate the much needed human rights reforms that the Ethiopian population deserves?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(13 June 2014)

The EU is following closely the human rights situation in Ethiopia, notably issues related to political space and freedoms of speech, association and press.

In this context, on 06 May 2014, the EEAS spokesperson issued a statement expressing concern 'about the recent arrests of bloggers, journalists and opposition members' and calling on the authorities 'to ensure that proceedings are carried out according to Ethiopian law and respecting international and regional norms'. The statement also reiterated 'the importance of protecting space for genuine political dialogue and creating an environment in which divergent voices from all parts of society can express their views freely'.

More generally, we believe that the best way to improve the human rights situation in Ethiopia is through dialogue with the Government and targeted development assistance. The EU repeatedly shares concerns with the Government, including at the highest levels, notably during Article 8 political dialogue meetings. The EU Delegation also monitors trials of journalists and opposition members. As regards development cooperation, the EU uses a mix of instruments and channels to reach target population groups. This includes support through Government, for instance on the provision of basic social services, and through international organisations, NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs). Moreover, the EU is co-chairing the civil society working group, thereby facilitating dialogue between Government and CSOs. The EU Civil Society Fund supports CSOs working on governance and rights-based approaches.

The EU will continue to closely follow the human rights situation in Ethiopia and to raise its concerns with the Ethiopian Government at the appropriate level.

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(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-005038/14**  
**adresată Comisiei**  
**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**  
(16 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Utilizarea ilegală a forței împotriva protestatarilor din Yemen

În 20 și 21 februarie 2014, cel puțin 100 de protestatari s-au adunat în Yemen pentru a demonstra împotriva deciziei finale a Dialogului național vizând crearea în această țară a unui sistem federal compus din șase state. Demonstrația, pașnică la început, s-a sfârșit cu moartea unui protestatar și rănirea altor cinci de către forțele de securitate, care au utilizat gaze lacrimogene și arme împotriva protestatarilor.

Potrivit Human Rights Watch, Yemenul trebuie să respecte reglementările Națiunilor Unite care limitează utilizarea forței doar la cazurile de amenințări iminente cu moartea. Orice încălcare a reglementărilor ar trebui urmărită în justiție de către autoritățile naționale. Cu toate acestea, în Yemen, multe anchete efectuate în ultimii trei ani și care vizează utilizarea ilegală a forței de către forțele de securitate nu au fost încă finalizate.

În lumina evenimentelor recente din februarie 2014, întrebăm Comisia care sunt măsurile pe care intenționează să le adopte, pentru a garanta că sistemul judiciar își desfășoară activitatea în mod independent și transparent, astfel încât să se facă dreptate în cazurile actuale și din trecut în care forța a fost utilizată în mod ilegal împotriva protestatarilor yemeniți?

**Răspuns dat de Înaltul Reprezentant/doamna vicepreședinte Ashton în numele Comisiei**  
(18 iunie 2014)

Uniunea Europeană știe de existența valului de demonstrații care a urmat după încheierea Dialogului național, precum și a demonstrațiilor care au marcat aniversarea revoluției în toată țara, în luna februarie.

UE oferă în prezent sprijin prin proiecte menite să îmbunătățească situația deținuților și respectarea drepturilor omului în cadrul sistemului de justiție.

Ca parte a asistenței pe care o acordă în perioada 2014-2015 Yemenului, UE va oferi, de asemenea, un sprijin specific pentru reforma sectorului de securitate din Yemen, pe baza celor mai bune practici internaționale și în vederea asigurării respectării depline a drepturilor omului și a statului de drept. Asistența acordată de UE pentru reforma sectorului de securitate din Yemen va viza instituirea și consolidarea unor instituții din cadrul securității și al justiției legitime și orientate spre servicii. Scopul acestei inițiative este de a consolida integritatea lanțului securității și justiției în Yemen, în special prin instituirea unui sistem de justiție și a unei poliții orientate spre servicii și responsabile, care să asigure respectarea drepturilor omului și a standardelor internaționale.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005038/14  
to the Commission**

**Monica Luisa Macovei (PPE)**

(16 April 2014)

*Subject:* Illegal use of force against Yemeni protesters

On 20 and 21 February 2014, at least 100 protesters gathered in Yemen in order to demonstrate against the conclusion of the National Dialogue to create a federal system in Yemen made up of six states. What started as a peaceful demonstration resulted in the death of one protester and the injuring of another five by the security forces, which used tear gases and guns against the protesters.

According to Human Rights Watch, Yemen is supposed to abide by the United Nations regulations which restrict the use of force to cases of imminent threats of death. Any breach of the regulation should be prosecuted by the national authorities. However, in Yemen, many investigations from the past three years on illegal use of force by the security forces are still pending an answer.

In light of the recent events of February 2014, we ask the Commission how is it planning to ensure that the judiciary system works in an independent and transparent way, in order to bring justice in the present and past cases of illegal use of force against Yemeni protesters?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(18 June 2014)

The European Union is aware of the wave of demonstrations that has followed the conclusion of the National Dialogue as well as demonstrations that marked the anniversary of the revolution all over the country in February.

This EU is currently providing support through projects designed to improve the situation of detainees and respect for human rights in the justice system.

As part of its 2014-2015 assistance to Yemen, the EU will further provide dedicated support to the reform of Yemen's security sector along international best practices and with a view to full respect of human rights and the rule of law. EU assistance to Yemen's Security Sector Reform will aim to establish and strengthen legitimate and service-oriented security and justice institutions. The purpose of this is to reinforce the integrity of the security and justice chain in Yemen, in particular through the establishment of a service-oriented and accountable police and a justice system that ensures respect for human rights and international standards.

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(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-005066/14**  
**à la Commission**  
**Marc Tarabella (S&D)**  
(17 avril 2014)

*Objet:* Sites de voyage et recours

L'Europe dresse un constat accablant. De nombreux sites qui proposent de réserver des voyages en ligne ne respectent pas certaines règles européennes. La France est même un mauvais élève puisque seulement 45 % des sites sont conformes.

La Commission a mené une enquête afin de savoir comment les sites de voyages informaient les internautes. Par le biais des autorités nationales chargées de la consommation, elle dresse un constat concernant ces plateformes dans l'ensemble des États membres de l'Union. Dans son rapport, elle indique ainsi avoir étudié pas moins de 552 sites.

Après avoir mené plusieurs actions, éventuellement répressives, l'organisme précise qu'en Europe, 38 % des sites informent désormais clairement les utilisateurs quant à leurs moyens de recours ou sur le prix total du service qu'ils devront régler. Précisément, la Commission s'est penchée sur quatre points majeurs et a mis en lumière plusieurs types d'absences ou de mentions au sein de ces plateformes.

Au premier pointage réalisé en 2013, aucun des 33 sites en France ne respectaient ces obligations. Désormais, 15 d'entre eux présentent des règles conformes aux dispositions et 18 sont encore sous le coup d'une procédure. 45 % des sites étudiés sont donc conformes en France, un taux plutôt faible au regard de la moyenne européenne (62 %).

Que compte faire la Commission à propos des 209 sites qui ne se sont toujours pas mis en conformité?

De quel arsenal de sanctions administratives et juridiques disposent les autorités nationales?

**Réponse donnée par M. Mimica au nom de la Commission**  
(14 juillet 2014)

Les autorités nationales chargées de la protection des consommateurs procèdent chaque année à une opération «coup de balai» qui porte sur des sites *web* d'un secteur donné et qui est coordonnée par la Commission européenne. Ce genre d'opération permet de relever les infractions à la législation relative aux consommateurs, lesquelles doivent conduire lesdites autorités à prendre les mesures d'exécution requises et à infliger aux opérateurs concernés les sanctions qui s'imposent.

Les résultats publiés le 14 avril 2014 montrent l'état d'avancement des mesures d'exécution appliquées dans les États membres pendant les six mois qui ont suivi le «coup de balai» visant des sites *web* de voyages. Il incombe aux autorités nationales de vérifier que les entreprises respectent les règles de l'UE et de prier les opérateurs des sites qui ne le font pas encore de modifier leurs sites en conséquence, faute de quoi ces opérateurs peuvent, en fonction des dispositions juridiques nationales, faire l'objet d'une action en justice, recevoir une amende ou être poursuivis. La résolution des problèmes transfrontaliers — c'est-à-dire, lorsque l'opérateur est établi dans un autre État membre — prend plus de temps. Sur les 552 sites visés par le «coup de balai», 66 posaient des problèmes de cet ordre.

La Commission invitera les États membres à lui faire rapport sur les affaires pendantes à l'automne prochain.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005066/14  
to the Commission**

**Marc Tarabella (S&D)**

(17 April 2014)

*Subject:* Travel websites and redress

Europe paints a shocking picture. Many websites which offer online travel reservations are not complying with some European regulations. France is itself a bad boy, since only 45% of sites comply.

The Commission has held an enquiry to find out how travel sites keep their users informed. It has drawn up a report into these platforms via the national consumer authorities in all the Member States of the Union. It indicates in its report that it has studied no fewer than 552 sites.

Having taken a number of actions which may even have been repressive, the organisation states that in Europe, 38% of sites provide users with clear information regarding their means of redress or the total price that they must pay for the service. The Commission has specifically focused on four major points and highlighted several elements which are or are not mentioned in these platforms.

In the first check in 2013, none of the 33 sites in France were complying with these obligations. Fifteen of them now have rules which comply with the provisions, while 18 are still facing disciplinary proceedings. 45% of the sites studied in France are therefore compliant, which is a fairly low rate compared to the European average of 62%.

What does the Commission intend to do regarding the 209 sites which are not yet compliant?

What range of administrative and legal sanctions do national authorities have at their disposal?

**Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission**

(14 July 2014)

National enforcement authorities for consumer protection carry out every year a screening of websites (known as 'sweep') in a given sector, which is coordinated by the European Commission. The sweep allows identifying breaches of consumer law, on which national authorities should take the appropriate enforcement measures towards the traders concerned.

The sweep results published on 14 April 2014 show the outcome of national enforcement actions carried out by the authorities during the six months after the screening of websites offering travel services. It is their responsibility to verify companies' compliance with the EU rules. The national authorities are expected to ask the traders of the remaining non-compliant sites to correct them. Otherwise, they can take legal action against the traders, fine them or take them to court, depending on the national legal provisions. Problems found on cross-border cases (where the trader is located in another Member State) normally take longer to be solved. 66 out of the 552 websites screened were cross-border cases.

The Commission will ask the Member States to report on the pending cases next Autumn.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-005109/14  
lill-Kunsill**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

(17 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Il-persuni b'dizabilità — impjegi fl-istituzzjonijiet tal-UE

Hafna Stati Membri għandhom politika tal-impjegi bbażata fuq kwota obbligatorja ta' impjegi li s-soltu tkun stabbilita f'leġislazzjoni speċifika dwar it-thaddim jew il-promozzjoni tat-thaddim ta' persuni b'dizabilità. Skont tali leġislazzjoni, l-impjegaturi huma obbligati jkollhom ċertu proporzjon ta' persuni b'dizabilità fost il-persunal tagħhom u huma biss dawk il-persuni b'dizabilità li jkunu rreġistrati u li jissodisfaw il-kriterji tal-eligibilità li jistgħu jgħoddu bhala parti minn din il-kwota. Dan jiżgura r-rieda ta' pajjiżi li jintegraw u jipprovdw opportunitajiet indaqs għall-persuni b'dizabilità.

Il-Kunsill għandu xi statistika dwar l-għadd totali u l-persentaġġ ta' persuni b'dizabilità impjegati fil-Kunsill?

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-005110/14  
lill-Kunsill**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

(17 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Il-persuni b'dizabilità — impjegi fl-istituzzjonijiet tal-UE

Hafna Stati Membri għandhom politika tal-impjegi bbażata fuq kwota obbligatorja ta' impjegi li s-soltu tkun stabbilita f'leġislazzjoni speċifika dwar it-thaddim jew il-promozzjoni tat-thaddim ta' persuni b'dizabilità. Skont tali leġislazzjoni, l-impjegaturi huma obbligati jkollhom ċertu proporzjon ta' persuni b'dizabilità fost il-persunal tagħhom u huma biss dawk il-persuni b'dizabilità li jkunu rreġistrati u li jissodisfaw il-kriterji tal-eligibilità li jistgħu jgħoddu bhala parti minn din il-kwota. Dan jiżgura r-rieda ta' pajjiżi li jintegraw u jipprovdw opportunitajiet indaqs għall-persuni b'dizabilità.

Il-Kunsill għandu politika ta' kwota simili fis-sehh għall-impjeg ta' persuni b'dizabilità? Jekk le, jipprevedi l-implimentazzjoni ta' tali politika ta' reklutaġġ?

**Tweġiba kongunta**

(30 ta' Ġunju 2014)

Ir-Regolamenti tal-Persunal <sup>(1)</sup>, adottati mill-Parlament Ewropew u l-Kunsill, jipprojbixxu d-diskriminazzjoni minhabba diżabilità. Madankollu, dawn ma jipprevedu l-ebda obbligu ġenerali li jkun hemm ċertu proporzjon ta' persuni b'dizabilità fost il-persunal tal-istituzzjonijiet tal-UE.

Il-Konvenzjoni tan-NU dwar id-Drittijiet ta' Persuni b'Diżabilità ilha tapplika għall-istituzzjonijiet tal-UE minn Jannar 2011. Konsegwentement, is-Segretarjat Ġenerali tal-Kunsill huwa involut fil-ġbir ta' data bl-għan li tiġi sorveljata s-sitwazzjoni tal-persuni b'dizabilità impjegati mill-Kunsill. Madankollu, f'dan l-istadju huwa m'għandux statistika komprensiva dwar in-numri totali u l-percentwali ta' persunal b'dizabilitajiet.

<sup>(1)</sup> Ir-Regolament (UE, Euratom) Nru 1023/2013 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill tat-22 ta' Ottubru 2013 L 287, 29.10.2013, p. 15.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005109/14  
to the Council**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

(17 April 2014)

*Subject:* People with disabilities — employment in EU institutions

Many Member States have an employment policy based on a mandatory employment quota, usually set out in specific legislation on employing or promoting the employment of people with disabilities. According to such legislation, employers are obliged to have a certain proportion of people with disabilities among their staff and only registered people with disabilities fulfilling the eligibility criteria can count towards this quota. This ensures the willingness of countries to integrate and provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Does the Council have any statistics on the total number and percentage of people with disabilities who are employed in the Council?

**Question for written answer E-005110/14  
to the Council**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

(17 April 2014)

*Subject:* People with disabilities — employment in EU institutions

Many Member States have an employment policy based on a mandatory employment quota, usually set out in specific legislation on employing or promoting the employment of people with disabilities. According to such legislation, employers are obliged to have a certain proportion of people with disabilities among their staff and only registered people with disabilities fulfilling the eligibility criteria can count towards this quota. This ensures the willingness of countries to integrate and provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Does the Council have a similar quota policy in place for the employment of people with disabilities? If not, does it envisage implementing such a recruitment policy?

**Joint reply**

(30 June 2014)

The Staff Regulations <sup>(1)</sup>, adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, prohibit discrimination on grounds of disability. However, they do not provide for any general obligation to have a certain proportion of persons with disabilities among the staff of the EU institutions.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has applied to the EU institutions since January 2011. Consequently, the General Secretariat of the Council is engaged in the collection of data with a view to monitoring the situation of persons with disabilities employed by the Council. However, at this stage it does not have comprehensive statistics on the total numbers and percentage of staff with disabilities.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1023/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22.10.2013, L 287, 29.10.2013, p.15.



(Magyar változat)

**Írásbeli választ igénylő kérdés E-005161/14**  
**a Bizottság számára**  
**Kovács Béla (NI)**  
(2014. április 17.)

**Tárgy:** Szén-dioxid helyett jöjjön a rákkeltő korom

Az EU folyamatosan szigorítja a gépjárműmotorokra vonatkozó környezetvédelmi határértékeket. Így ezek a motorok egyre kevesebb szén-dioxidot bocsátanak ki. Csakhogy megjelent a kipufogógázokban a mikroszemcsés korom (PM<sub>2,5</sub>-PM<sub>10</sub>), amit a hagyományos régi motorok egyáltalán nem bocsátottak ki.

Tudományos vizsgálatok igazolják, hogy a mikroszemcsés korom rákkeltő, felelős a stroke, tüdőbetegségek, COPD kialakulásáért. Ugyanakkor a szén-dioxid lényegében ártalmatlan, a növények növekedését elősegítő gáz, melynek minimális üvegház-hatása is vitatott.

Miért kellett egy ártalmatlan anyag kibocsátásának csökkentése érdekében egy súlyosan ártalmas mesterséges anyagot rászabadítani az európai polgárokra?

Az egészséghez és egészséges környezethez való jog okán tájékoztatják-e az uniós polgárokat arról, hogy minden korszerűnek és környezetbarátnak titulált autó megvásárlásával a maguk és szeretteik halálát is siettetik?

Ha a Bizottság a cigaretták esetében előírta a feliratozási kötelezettséget, úgy az autókön, illetve azok műszaki dokumentációin miért nem kell feltüntetni, hogy milyen nem várt ártalmakat okoznak?

**Janez Potočnik válasza a Bizottság nevében**  
(2014. július 7.)

A Bizottság tudatában van a szálló por egészségügyi hatásainak. Ezzel szemben nincs tudomása annak bizonyítékáról, hogy a motor által kibocsátott részecskék (PM<sub>2,5</sub> és PM<sub>10</sub>) tömege növekedett volna amiatt, hogy a közúti járművek motorjait módosították a CO<sub>2</sub>-kibocsátás csökkentésére vonatkozó követelményeknek való megfelelés érdekében. A hagyományos szennyezőanyagok legutóbbi ellenőrzése nyomán (Euro 5 kibocsátási szabvány [könnyűgépjárművek, pl. személygépkocsik számára] <sup>(1)</sup>) és EURO V kibocsátási szabvány [nehézségi járművek, pl. tehergépkocsik számára] <sup>(2)</sup>) a megengedett porkibocsátás egy 30-as faktorral (vagyis 97%-kal) csökkent az 1990. évi dízelüzemű modellekhez viszonyítva. Az Euro 5 benzinüzemű személygépkocsiknak ugyanazon porkibocsátási határértékeknek kell megfelelniük, mint a dízelüzeműeknek.

A dízelüzemű személygépkocsikkal kapcsolatos legfőbb megoldatlan probléma a könnyűgépjárművek nitrogén-oxid (NO<sub>x</sub>) kibocsátása, ahol a valódi üzem értékei sokkal rosszabbak a laboratóriumi méréseken alapuló típus-jóváhagyási vizsgálat mutatóinál. A CARS 2020 közleményben <sup>(3)</sup> és a Tiszta levegőt Európának programban <sup>(4)</sup> a Bizottság elkötelezte magát a kérdés megoldására azáltal, hogy az Euro 6 szabvány végrehajtásához új vizsgálati ciklust vezet be.

A Tiszta levegőt Európának programban az is szerepel, hogy a járművek környezetszennyezési értékeik alapján történő megjelölésének lehetőségeit is megvizsgálják.

<sup>(1)</sup> A 715/2007/EK rendelet szerinti Euro 5 szabvány 2009. szeptember 1. óta van érvényben.

<sup>(2)</sup> Az 595/2009/EK rendelet szerinti Euro V szabvány 2008. október 1. óta van érvényben.

<sup>(3)</sup> COM(2012) 636 final, 2012.11.8.

<sup>(4)</sup> COM(2013) 918 final, 2013.12.18.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005161/14  
to the Commission**

**Béla Kovács (NI)**

(17 April 2014)

*Subject:* A welcome for carcinogenic soot, to take the place of carbon dioxide

The EU constantly adopts more stringent environmental limit values applicable to the engines of motor vehicles. As a result, engines emit less and less carbon dioxide. There is a catch, however: particulates (PM2.5-PM10) have appeared in exhaust gases which the old, traditional engines did not generally emit.

Scientific research shows these soot particulates to be carcinogenic and to be responsible for strokes and the development of lung diseases and COPD. On the other hand, carbon dioxide is a basically harmless gas which promotes plant growth and whose minimal greenhouse gas effect is also controversial.

Why, in order to reduce emissions of a harmless substance, has it been necessary to let loose upon European citizens a seriously harmful artificial substance?

In view of the right to health and a healthy environment, are European citizens informed that every car that is bought which is described as up-to-date and environmentally sound accelerates their death and that of their loved ones?

If, in the case of cigarettes, the Commission imposed a labelling requirement, why is it not necessary to indicate on cars or in their technical documentation what unexpected harm they cause?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(7 July 2014)

The Commission is indeed aware of the health implications of particulate matter. However, it is not aware of evidence that engine modifications to comply with requirements to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from motor vehicles have resulted in higher engine emissions of particulate mass (PM2.5 and PM10). The latest controls on conventional pollutants (emission standards Euro 5 (for light duty vehicles like cars) <sup>(1)</sup> and EURO V (for heavy duty vehicles like trucks) <sup>(2)</sup>) have reduced the allowed emission of particulate matter by a factor of 30 (i.e. by 97%) compared to 1990 diesel models. Euro 5 gasoline cars must comply with the same PM emission limit as diesels.

The main outstanding pollution problem related to diesels concerns emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) from light-duty vehicles, where the real-life performance is much worse than the indications from the laboratory-based type-approval test. In the Cars 2020 Communication <sup>(3)</sup> and the Clean Air Programme for Europe <sup>(4)</sup>, the Commission has committed to resolving this problem by introducing a new test cycle for the implementation of Euro 6.

The Clean Air Programme for Europe indeed states that options for labelling vehicles according to their pollution performance will be explored.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Reg 715/2007 Euro 5 standard in force since 1.9.2009.

<sup>(2)</sup> Reg 595/2009 Euro V standard in force since 1.10.2008.

<sup>(3)</sup> COM(2012) 636 final of 8.11.2012.

<sup>(4)</sup> COM(2013) 918 final of 18.12.2013.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

**Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-005216/14**  
**προς την Επιτροπή**  
**Theodoros Skylakakis (ALDE)**  
(23 Απριλίου 2014)

Θέμα: Τροπολογία σχετικά με την χορήγηση δανείων στα ελληνικά κόμματα

Από τον ισολογισμό του κόμματος της Νέας Δημοκρατίας του έτους 2013 προκύπτει ότι το κόμμα αυτό — που έχει ως πρόεδρο τον νυν πρωθυπουργό της Ελλάδος κ. Σαμαρά — έλαβε το 2013 νέα δάνεια ύψους 14 εκατ. ευρώ, με αποτέλεσμα τα συνολικά του δάνεια να φθάσουν τα 160 εκ. ευρώ. Τα νέα αυτά δάνεια είναι βέβαιο ότι δεν μπορούν να εξυπηρετηθούν, όπως προκύπτει από απάντηση του Επιτρόπου κ. Αλμούνια σε ερώτησή μου αλλά έχει ομολογήσει και το ίδιο το κόμμα της Νέας Δημοκρατίας στην εισηγητική έκθεση τροπολογίας που είχε καταθέσει ο τότε Γενικός της Γραμματέας το 2012, στην οποία ζητούσε ρύθμιση των σχετικών δανείων δια νόμου. Παράλληλα τον Απρίλιο του 2013 η κυβέρνηση πέρασε ειδική τροπολογία με την οποία δεν θεωρείται απιστία η χορήγηση δανείων στα κόμματα, ακόμα και αν αυτά είναι δεδομένο ότι δεν μπορούν να εξυπηρετηθούν. Χορηγήθηκε δηλαδή εμμέσως αμνηστία στους τραπεζίτες που έδωσαν τα σχετικά δάνεια και στους ηθικούς αυτουργούς των δανείων αυτών. Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή, με την ιδιότητά της ως μέρους της τρόικας:

Πότε πληροφορήθηκε με οποιονδήποτε τρόπο την ύπαρξη της τροπολογίας αυτής του Απριλίου του 2013;

Συμφωνεί με το περιεχόμενό της, με δεδομένες τις διαβεβαιώσεις που έχει δώσει ο Επίτροπος κ. Ρεν από το 2011 σε απάντηση της ερώτησής μου (E-011048/2011), σύμφωνα με τις οποίες για να αποτραπεί κάθε ενδεχόμενο ηθικού κινδύνου που σχετίζεται με το πρόγραμμα για την Ελλάδα και την ανακεφαλαιοποίηση των ελληνικών τραπεζών, θα ληφθούν μέτρα για να διασφαλιστεί η τήρηση των αρχών της δίκαιης μεταχείρισης, της αμεροληψίας και της ανεξαρτησίας από πολιτικές επιρροές;

**Απάντηση του κ. Kallas εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής**  
(10 Ιουλίου 2014)

Η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή θα ήθελε να επιστήσει την προσοχή του κ. βουλευτή στο γεγονός ότι, στο πλαίσιο της πρώτης αναθεώρησης του δεύτερου προγράμματος οικονομικής προσαρμογής για την Ελλάδα, τοποθετήθηκαν εντολοδόχοι παρακολούθησης στις τέσσερις κεντρικές ελληνικές τράπεζες. Ειδικότερα, οι εντολοδόχοι παρακολούθησης για την Τράπεζα Πειραιώς, την Alpha Bank και την Εθνική Τράπεζα της Ελλάδος διορίστηκαν στις 16 Ιανουαρίου 2013. Ο εντολοδόχος παρακολούθησης για τη Eurobank διορίστηκε στις 22 Φεβρουαρίου 2013. Οι εντολοδόχοι παρακολούθησης αμείβονται από την τράπεζα, με την οποία έχουν υπογράψει επίσημα σύμβαση, αλλά εργάζονται για την Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή. Τα καθήκοντα των εντολοδόχων παρακολούθησης είναι να παρακολουθούν την αναδιάρθρωση και την εταιρική διακυβέρνηση των τραπεζών, να εποπτεύουν τις πολιτικές και τις πρακτικές δανειοδότησης των τραπεζών, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των συναλλαγών με τα συνδεδεμένα μέρη και τα πολιτικά κόμματα, και να υποβάλλουν εκθέσεις σχετικά με κάθε δραστηριότητα η οποία δεν είναι σύμφωνη με τους όρους της αγοράς. Στο πλαίσιο αυτό, οι τράπεζες υποχρεούνται να χορηγούν δάνεια σε εμπορική βάση και υπό συνθήκες ανταγωνισμού. Η Επιτροπή επιβεβαιώνει ότι, σύμφωνα με τις διαθέσιμες πληροφορίες, καμία από τις τέσσερις κεντρικές τράπεζες δεν έχει χορηγήσει νέο δάνειο σε πολιτικά κόμματα από τη στιγμή που ανέλαβαν τα καθήκοντά τους οι εντολοδόχοι παρακολούθησης. Οι ανωτέρω ρυθμίσεις συνάδουν με την απάντηση του Αντιπροέδρου Rehn στην οποία αναφέραστε.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005216/14  
to the Commission**

**Theodoros Skylakakis (ALDE)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Amendment on the granting of loans to Greek political parties

New Democracy's balance sheets for 2013 show that in 2013 this party — whose President is the current Prime Minister of Greece, Mr Samaras — received new loans totalling EUR 14 million; this means that it now has total loans of EUR 160 million. These new loans can certainly not be serviced, as is clear from the reply given by Commissioner Almunia to a question I had tabled, and the New Democracy party admitted as much in the explanatory statement to an amendment tabled by its then General Secretary in 2012 in which he calls for the loans to be settled by law.

Then, in April 2013, the government adopted a special amendment proposing that lending to parties, even where it is certain that they will be unable to service them, should not be regarded as fraud. In other words, the bankers who granted the loans and the instigators of these loans have indirectly been granted an amnesty.

In view of the above, will the Commission, in its capacity as part of the Troika, state:

When was it informed — by any means — of the existence of this amendment of April 2013?

Does it agree with its content, in view of the assurances given to me by Commissioner Rehn in 2011 in answer to my question (E-011048/2011) stating that, in order to prevent any possibility of moral hazard associated with the programme for Greece and the recapitalisation of Greek banks, measures would be taken to ensure that the principles of fairness, impartiality and independence from political influence were observed?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission**

(10 July 2014)

The European Commission would like to draw the attention of the honourable Member of the European Parliament to the fact that in the context of the first review under the second economic adjustment programme for Greece monitoring trustees were placed in the four core Greek banks. In particular, the monitoring trustees for Piraeus, Alpha and National Bank of Greece were appointed on 16 January 2013. The monitoring trustee for Eurobank was appointed on 22 February 2013. Monitoring trustees are paid by the bank and have formally a contract with the bank but they work for the EC. The tasks of the monitoring trustees are to monitor the restructuring and the corporate governance of banks, oversee the lending policies and practices of the banks including the transactions with the related parties and the political parties and report about any activity which is not in line with market terms and conditions. In this context, the banks are required to grant loans on a commercial and arm's length basis. The Commission confirms that, according to the information available, there has been no new loan granted to political parties by the four core banks since the monitoring trustees took up their duties. The above arrangements are consistent with the response of Vice-President Rehn that you refer to.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005234/14  
to the Council**

**Charles Tannock (ECR)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Blood minerals in North Korea

Although the appalling state of human rights in the DPRK, or North Korea, is notorious throughout the world, the recent UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) report highlighted one particularly egregious phenomenon: the existence of slave labour in prison camps, which are thought to house up to 200 000 inmates, among them thousands of children. The report states that in the prison camps 'all inmates are subjected to forced labour' for over twelve hours a day, regardless of their physical or emotional well-being, and that 'deadly work accidents frequently occur as a result of the combination of the prisoners' dire physical condition and the lack of safety measures'. The report further states that the actions of the state in the political prison camps, which include extermination, enslavement, torture, rape and religious and gender-based persecution, constitute crimes against humanity.

A less well-known aspect of the camps is that many of them host mines which produce coal, magnetite and other minerals. Given the overwhelming evidence that such mines are operated using slave labour, and that the inmates are subject to appalling conditions frequently resulting in severe injury or death, it comes as a surprise to many that importing such minerals from North Korea is technically not forbidden under the existing sanctions regime. It can be argued that EU policy is therefore tacitly supporting the trade of 'blood minerals', which should be treated in the same way as 'blood diamonds' in West Africa. Banning their trade would also cut off a valuable source of revenue to the government and its nuclear weapons programme.

1. Is the Council aware of the issue of the allegations surrounding so-called 'blood minerals' in North Korea's slave labour camps?
2. Will it consider explicitly banning the import of such minerals, for example by amending Council Regulation (EC) No 329/2007?

**Reply**

(8 July 2014)

The Council is aware of the report by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), including the parts related to prison camps. In fact, the EU co-initiated the UN Human Rights Council Resolution that, in March 2013, established the said Commission to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the DPRK, including the violations associated with prison camps.

The EU currently has a regime of restrictive measures in place with respect to the DPRK that implements the sanctions imposed by the United Nations in response to the DPRK's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes and includes additional restrictive measures reinforcing the UN measures. In February 2013, the Council imposed a ban on trade in gold, precious metals and diamonds with the Government of the DPRK, its public bodies and the Central Bank of the DPRK, or persons or entities acting on their behalf or under their direction. New EU restrictive measures are currently not under consideration.

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(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-005254/14  
an die Kommission**

**Eva Lichtenberger (Verts/ALE)**

(23. April 2014)

**Betrifft:** Urteil des Gerichtshofs zur Richtlinie über die Vorratsdatenspeicherung/Artikel 15 der Richtlinie über den Schutz der Privatsphäre in der elektronischen Kommunikation

Teilt die Kommission die Auffassung, dass alle Rechtsvorschriften der Mitgliedstaaten über Datenspeicherung Artikel 15 der Richtlinie über den Schutz der Privatsphäre in der elektronischen Kommunikation (2002/58/EG, zuletzt im Jahr 2009 geändert) berücksichtigen müssen, entsprechend dem Urteil des Gerichtshofs zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung?

Teilt die Kommission daher die Auffassung, dass alle nationalen Rechtsvorschriften über Datenspeicherung nicht verhältnismäßig sind und daher aufgehoben werden müssen?

**Antwort von Frau Malmström im Namen der Kommission**

(17. Juli 2014)

Die nationalen Rechtsvorschriften der Mitgliedstaaten werden durch das Urteil des Gerichtshofs der Europäischen Union (EuGH) in den verbundenen Rechtssachen C-293/12 und C-594/12, in dem die Richtlinie zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung für ungültig erklärt wird, nicht unmittelbar betroffen.

Nach EU-Recht können die Mitgliedstaaten in Ermangelung einer Richtlinie zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung gemäß Artikel 15 Absatz 1 der Datenschutzrichtlinie für elektronische Kommunikation <sup>(1)</sup> ihre Regelungen zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung beibehalten oder neue derartige Regelungen einführen. Artikel 15 Absatz 1 der Datenschutzrichtlinie für elektronische Kommunikation ermöglicht es den Mitgliedstaaten, durch Rechtsvorschriften vorzusehen, dass Daten unter anderem zur Verhütung, Ermittlung, Feststellung und Verfolgung von Straftaten während einer begrenzten Zeit aufbewahrt werden, sofern eine solche Beschränkung in einer demokratischen Gesellschaft notwendig, angemessen und verhältnismäßig ist. Derartige Maßnahmen müssen mit den allgemeinen Grundsätzen des Unionsrechts, einschließlich der Grundrechte, vereinbar sein. Solange diese Kriterien erfüllt sind, stehen die nationalen Rechtsvorschriften der Mitgliedstaaten über die Vorratsdatenspeicherung mit dem EU-Recht in Einklang. Jeder Mitgliedstaat muss sorgfältig prüfen, ob eine Änderung der nationalen Rechtsvorschriften notwendig ist.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Richtlinie 2002/58/EG des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 12. Juli 2002 über die Verarbeitung personenbezogener Daten und den Schutz der Privatsphäre in der elektronischen Kommunikation (Datenschutzrichtlinie für elektronische Kommunikation); ABl. L 201 vom 31.7.2002, S. 37-47 [Verlinkung zur 2009 geänderten Fassung].

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-005254/14  
to the Commission**

**Eva Lichtenberger (Verts/ALE)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Decision of the Court of Justice on the Data Retention Directive/Article 15 of the directive on privacy and electronic communications

Does the Commission agree that all Member State laws on data retention have to reflect Article 15 of the directive on privacy and electronic communications (2002/58/EC, last amended in 2009), in line with the ruling of the Court of Justice on the Data Retention Directive?

Does the Commission agree, therefore, that any national data retention laws are not proportionate and must be repealed?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission**

(17 July 2014)

Member States' national legislation is not directly concerned by the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Joined Cases C-293/12 and C-594/12 invalidating the Data Retention Directive.

Under EC law, in the absence of an EU Data Retention Directive, Member States may still maintain or set up new data retention schemes, under the conditions of Article 15(1) of the e-privacy Directive <sup>(1)</sup>. Article 15(1) of the e-Privacy Directive allows Member States to adopt legislative measures providing for the retention of data for a limited period justified on the grounds including prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal offences, provided that such a restriction is a necessary, appropriate and proportionate measure within a democratic society. Such measures must be in accordance with the general principles of Union law, including fundamental rights. Member States' national legislation on data retention remains compatible with EC law to the extent that it complies with these criteria. Each Member State has to carefully assess whether there is a need to change its national legislation.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12.7.2002 concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector (Directive on privacy and electronic communications); OJ L 201, 31.7.2002, p. 37-47 [link is to text as amended in 2009].

(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-005284/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)**  
(23 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Il-ġeneru u l-intrapriżi ta' daqs żgħir u medju (SMEs)

Hemm 20.7 miljun SME fl-UE, li jimpjegaw iktar minn 65 % tal-forza tax-xogħol eżistenti tas-settur privat, u l-SMEs huma l-iktar intrapriżi innovattivi bl-ahjar rendiment f'termini ta' holqien ta' impjegi u tkabbir ekonomiku. L-SMEs jehtieġu mhux biex isimplifikazzjoni amministrattivi, imma wkoll aċċess ahjar għall-finanzi, aċċess għall-informazzjoni, hilit u għarfien, u appoġġ għall-isforzi innovattivi tagħhom.

1. Kemm-il SME hija ġestita minn mara, u l-Kummissjoni tista' tipprovdi statistika individwali għal kull Stat Membru?
2. Il-Kummissjoni x'inizjattivi għandha biex tinkoraġġixxi iktar nisa jibdew in-negozji tagħhom stess?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Tajani fisem il-Kummissjoni**  
(27 ta' Ġunju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni tirreferi lill-Onorevoli Membru għat-tweġiba tagħha għall-mistoqsija E-4603/2012 dwar dejta dwar in-nisa u l-intraprenditorija.

Barra minn hekk, studju li l-għan tiegħu parzjalment kien li tinkiseb dejta statistika dwar l-intraprendituri nisa għal pajjiżi parteċipanti kollha tal-COSME <sup>(1)</sup> jinsab għaddej bhalissa. Ir-riżultati se jkunu lesti fil-harifa tal-2014.

Fir-rigward ta' programmi speċifiċi biex jiżdiedu u jiġu appoġġjati l-intraprendituri nisa, il-Kummissjoni tirreferi lill-Onorevoli Membru għat-tweġiba tagħha għall-mistoqsija E-2616/2014.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COSME huwa programm tal-UE għall-Kompetittività tal-Intrapriżi u tal-Intrapriżi Żgħar u Medji (SMEs), li beda mill-2014 u se jibqa' għaddej sal-2020 b'baġit ippjanat ta' EUR 2.3 biljun.



(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005284/14  
to the Commission**

**Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Gender and SMEs

There are 20.7 million SMEs in the EU, which employ over 65% of the existing private-sector workforce, and SMEs are among the most innovatory enterprises, with the best performance in terms of job creation and economic growth. SMEs need not just administrative simplification, but also better access to finance, access to information, skills and knowledge, and support for their innovative efforts.

1. How many SMEs are managed by women, and can the Commission provide a breakdown of statistics by Member State?
2. What initiatives does the Commission have in place to encourage more women to start their own business?

**Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission**

(27 June 2014)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its reply to Question E-4603/2012 on data on women in entrepreneurship.

In addition, a study aimed in part at obtaining statistical data on women entrepreneurs for all COSME <sup>(1)</sup> participating countries is currently underway. The results will be ready in autumn 2014.

With respect to specific programmes to increase and support women entrepreneurs, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its reply given to Question E-2616/2014.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) running from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of EUR 2.3 billion.

(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-005285/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)**  
(23 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Il-miri tal-iskart ta' tagħmir elettriku u elettroniku domestiku

It-*Times of Malta* fis-17 ta' April 2014 irrappurtat li "Malta hi wahda mill-10 pajjiżi fiż-Żona Ekonomika Ewropea li naqset milli tilhaq mira tal-UE dwar il-ġbir ta' skart ta' tagħmir elettriku u elettroniku. Id-Direttiva tal-UE tistabbilixxi mira ta' ġbir ta' mill-inqas 4 kg ta' skart ta' tagħmir elettriku u elettroniku mid-djar għal kull abitant li kellha tintlaħaq mill-pajjiżi kollha sa mhux aktar tard mill-2009. L-Eurostat din il-ġimgħa rrapportat li, b'kollox, 10 pajjiżi naqsu milli jilhqqu l-mira ta' ġbir ta' 4 kg għal kull abitant (il-Greċja, Spanja, Ċipru, il-Latvja, il-Litwanja, l-Ungerija, Malta, il-Polonja, ir-Rumanija, is-Slovakkja), li minnhom tliet pajjiżi (il-Greċja, is-Slovakkja, l-Ungerija) kienu ferm viċin li jilhqqu l-mira (b'3.9 kg għal kull abitant)". X'inhuma l-fehmiet tal-Kummissjoni dwar dan ir-rapport?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Potočnik fisem il-Kummissjoni**  
(14 ta' Lulju 2014)

Ir-rapport imsemmi mill-Onorevoli Membru huwa bbażat fuq il-ġbir ta' dejta tal-WEEE li l-Istati Membri rrapportaw lill-Kummissjoni għas-snin 2007, 2008, 2009 u 2010 abbażi tad-Deciżjoni tal-Kummissjoni 2004/249/KE <sup>(1)</sup>. Ir-rapport shih huwa disponibbli fil-websajt tal-Eurostat <sup>(2)</sup>. Ir-raġunijiet għall-prestazzjoni differenti tal-Istati Membri jvarjaw u jirriflettu differenzi fil-livelli ta' konsum tal-EEE kif ukoll prestazzjoni differenti tal-iskemi għall-ġbir tal-WEEE li hemm fis-seħh. Fejn meħtieġ, il-Kummissjoni tindirizza l-Istati Membri individwalment u titlobhom jagħtu spjegazzjonijiet għala naqsu milli jikkonformaw mal-miri jew rekwiżiti oħra fil-liġi tal-UE.

Ir-reviżjoni tad-Direttiva WEEE <sup>(3)</sup> stabbilixxiet miri għall-ġbir abbażi tal-perċentwali ta' EEE li jitqiegħed fis-suq minflok cifra bbażata fuq massa unika. Il-metalli prezzjużi u l-elementi terrestri rari li jinsabu fil-WEEE jagħmlu r-riċiklaġġ tiegħu dejjem aktar vallapena minn alternattivi oħra inqas favorevoli għall-ambjent.

<sup>(1)</sup> Il-Ġurnal Uffiċjali L 078, 16.3.2004.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Waste\\_statistics\\_-\\_electrical\\_and\\_electronic\\_equipment#Collection\\_of\\_WEEE\\_by\\_country](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Waste_statistics_-_electrical_and_electronic_equipment#Collection_of_WEEE_by_country)

<sup>(3)</sup> 2012/19/UE (ĠU 197, 24/7/12).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005285/14  
to the Commission**

**Claudette Abela Baldacchino (S&D)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Household WEEE targets

*The Times of Malta* reported on 17 April 2014 that 'Malta is one of 10 countries in the European Economic Area which failed to meet an EU target for the collection of electrical and electronic waste (WEEE). The EU Directive set a collection target of a minimum of 4 kg per inhabitant of WEEE from households to be achieved by all countries in 2009 at the latest. Altogether, 10 countries failed to meet the collection target of 4 kg per inhabitant (Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia), of which three countries (Greece, Slovakia, Hungary) were very close to the target (with 3.9 kg/inhabitant), Eurostat reported this week.'

What are the Commission's views on this report?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(14 July 2014)

The report referred to by the Honourable Member is based on the WEEE collection data that Member States reported to the Commission for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 on the basis of Commission Decision 2004/249/EC <sup>(1)</sup>. The full report is available on the Eurostat website <sup>(2)</sup>. The reasons for the different performance of Member States vary, reflecting differences in EEE consumption levels as well as different performance of the WEEE collection schemes in place. Where necessary, the Commission approaches individual Member States asking them to give explanations for failing to achieve compliance with targets or other requirements in EC law.

The revision of the WEEE Directive <sup>(3)</sup> has now established collection targets based on the percentage of EEE put on the market rather than a single weight based figure. The valuable metals and rare earths contained in WEEE make it increasingly profitable to recycle rather than disposing of in less environmentally optimal ways.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 78, 16.3.2004.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Waste\\_statistics\\_-\\_electrical\\_and\\_electronic\\_equipment#Collection\\_of\\_WEEE\\_by\\_country](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Waste_statistics_-_electrical_and_electronic_equipment#Collection_of_WEEE_by_country)

<sup>(3)</sup> 2012/19/EU (OJ L 197, 24.7.12).

(Version française)

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-005304/14**  
**à la Commission**  
**Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)**  
(23 avril 2014)

*Objet:* Plan d'action européen contre l'obsolescence programmée des produits

Le Comité économique et social européen a adopté, le 17 octobre 2013, un avis intitulé «Pour une consommation plus durable: la vie des produits de l'industrie et l'information du consommateur pour une confiance renouvelée».

Alors que l'Union devrait défendre le principe de l'écoconception des produits pour favoriser leur durabilité et combattre leur obsolescence, quelles actions la Commission compte-t-elle mettre en œuvre pour lutter contre l'obsolescence programmée des produits?

**Réponse donnée par M. Barnier au nom de la Commission**  
(2 juillet 2014)

L'auteur de la question est invité à consulter les précédentes réponses aux questions parlementaires dans le domaine de l'obsolescence programmée, notamment les réponses P-5252/14, E-3441/13 et E-6339/13.

La Commission lutte actuellement contre les pratiques dites d'obsolescence programmée via la directive sur l'écoconception <sup>(1)</sup>, qui permet d'établir des dispositions en faveur de la réparabilité et l'allongement de la durée de vie des produits et équipements et de fixer des exigences d'écoconception contraignantes dès que les répercussions sur l'environnement s'avèrent marquées <sup>(2)</sup>. Des exigences en matière de conception des produits ont également été intégrées dans la refonte de la directive relative aux déchets d'équipements électriques et électroniques (DEEE) <sup>(3)</sup>.

Plus généralement, la directive 1999/44/CE <sup>(4)</sup> donne en outre aux consommateurs le droit à une garantie de deux ans minimum. Si un article se révèle défectueux ou s'il ne fonctionne pas comme annoncé, le vendeur doit le réparer ou le remplacer sans frais. Les pratiques commerciales consistant à ne pas informer un consommateur que le produit qu'il a acheté est reconnu comme ayant été conçu avec une durée de vie limitée pourraient être considérées comme déloyales, au sens de la directive 2005/29/CE <sup>(5)</sup>.

Les labels écologiques et d'autres mesures volontaires liées aux produits peuvent aussi jouer un rôle plus important dans la prise en compte des exigences environnementales sur l'ensemble du cycle de vie des produits, des processus et des services.

Afin de favoriser une consommation plus pérenne, la Commission a déclaré qu'elle allait réfléchir à des mesures augmentant la longévité des biens de consommation, notamment une aide aux services de réparation et de maintenance <sup>(6)</sup>. Plus récemment, des actions ont été réalisées dans ce domaine, comme l'examen de l'efficacité des matières premières pour l'écoconception, au cours duquel la durée de vie du produit a été analysée <sup>(7)</sup>. La Commission a également lancé une étude sur la durabilité des produits <sup>(8)</sup> en vue d'élaborer des exigences de durabilité.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2009/125/CE, JO L 285 du 31.10.2009.

<sup>(2)</sup> La durée de vie ou la durabilité sont réglementées, notamment dans le règlement sur l'écoconception 244/2009 (durée de vie des lampes de 6 000 h) et dans le règlement sur l'écoconception 666/2013 relatif aux aspirateurs.

<sup>(3)</sup> Directive 2012/19/UE relative aux déchets d'équipements électriques et électroniques (DEEE) (refonte), JO L 197 du 24.7.2012.

<sup>(4)</sup> Directive 1999/44/CE sur certains aspects de la vente et des garanties des biens de consommation, JO L 171 du 7.7.1999, p. 12.

<sup>(5)</sup> Directive 2005/29/CE relative aux pratiques commerciales déloyales, JO L 149 du 11.6.2005, p. 22.

<sup>(6)</sup> Indiqué dans la communication de la Commission sur un agenda du consommateur, COM(2012)225 final.

<sup>(7)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/105>

<sup>(8)</sup> <http://www.productdurability.eu/>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005304/14  
to the Commission  
Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)  
(23 April 2014)**

*Subject:* European action plan against the planned obsolescence of products

On 17 October 2013 the European Economic and Social Committee adopted an opinion entitled 'Towards more sustainable consumption: industrial product lifetimes and restoring trust through consumer information.'

Given that the EU should uphold the principle of eco-designed products to promote their sustainability and combat their obsolescence, what measures does the Commission intend to take to combat the planned obsolescence of products?

**Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission  
(2 July 2014)**

The Honourable Member is invited to consult previous answers to parliamentary questions concerning the area of planned obsolescence, *inter alia* P-5252/14, E-3441/13 and E-6339/13.

The Commission is already combating such planned obsolescence practices via the Ecodesign Directive <sup>(1)</sup>, which enables requirements to be made for reparability and the life-time extension of products and equipment, and enables mandatory ecodesign requirements to be set whenever environmental impacts are found to be significant <sup>(2)</sup>. Product design requirements are also included in the recast WEEE Directive <sup>(3)</sup>.

In addition, overall, Directive 1999/44/EC <sup>(4)</sup> gives consumers the right to a minimum two-year guarantee. Where an item turns out to be faulty or does not function as advertised, the seller must repair or replace it free of charge. If a product is proven to have been designed with a limited lifetime and the consumer is not informed about this fact, it could be considered as an unfair commercial practice under Directive 2005/29/EC <sup>(5)</sup>.

Ecolabels and other voluntary product-related voluntary measures may also have the potential to play a more important role, to enable environmental requirements to be taken into account over the whole life cycle of products, processes and services.

To promote more sustainable consumption, the Commission has stated that it will consider taking measures to make consumer goods more durable, including support for repair and maintenance services <sup>(6)</sup>. More recently, related activities include an examination of material efficiency for ecodesign where product lifetime was one area analysed <sup>(7)</sup>. The Commission also recently launched a product durability study <sup>(8)</sup> to develop durability requirements.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2009/125/EC, OJ L 285, 31.10.2009.

<sup>(2)</sup> Lifetime or durability is regulated, for example, in Ecodesign Regulation 244/2009 (Lamp lifetime of 6 000 h), and in Ecodesign Regulation 666/2013 on vacuum cleaners.

<sup>(3)</sup> Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (recast), OJ L 197, 24.7.2012.

<sup>(4)</sup> Directive 1999/44/EC on certain aspects of the sale of consumer goods and associated guarantees, OJ L 171, 7.7.1999, p.12.

<sup>(5)</sup> Directive 2005/29/EC concerning unfair commercial practices, OJ L 149, 11.6.2005, p.22.

<sup>(6)</sup> Indicated in the communication of the Commission on a Consumer Agenda COM(2012) 225 final.

<sup>(7)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/105>

<sup>(8)</sup> <http://www.productdurability.eu/>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005324/14  
to the Commission  
Emer Costello (S&D)  
(23 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Natural catastrophe insurance markets and homes at risk of flooding and storm damage

Further to its answer of 17 January 2013 to my Question P-011023/2012, what action is the Commission now considering taking on foot of the public consultation on the Green Paper on the prevention and insurance of natural and man-made disasters, most notably to address the situation of homes at risk of flooding and storm damage?

**Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission  
(14 July 2014)**

The Commission set out its overall strategy for disaster risk reduction in the Commission's Communication of 8 April 2014 on the post 2015 Hyogo framework for action: managing risks to achieve resilience <sup>(1)</sup>. The Commission is still analysing possible follow-up actions on the Green Paper on the insurance of natural and man-made disasters <sup>(2)</sup>. In doing so, the Commission will carefully consider the views expressed by Honourable Members in the European Parliament's Resolution of 5 February 2014 on the insurance of natural and man-made disasters <sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2014) 216 final.  
<sup>(2)</sup> COM(2013)0213.  
<sup>(3)</sup> 2013/2174(INI).

(Versiunea în limba română)

**Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-005355/14  
adresată Comisiei**

**Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)**

(23 aprilie 2014)

*Subiect:* Jocurile de noroc online

Pe piața internă a Uniunii Europene s-au dezvoltat noi tehnologii ale informației, precum și activități economice nereglementate corespunzător. Popularitatea jocurilor de noroc online a crescut exponențial în ultimii ani.

Acest sector este caracterizat în prezent prin existența unei importante piețe negre, estimându-se că un procentaj destul de mare dintre site-urile care promovează online jocuri de noroc nu dețin licențe.

Jocurile de noroc online ar putea avea drept consecințe nu numai lipsa protecției consumatorilor, ci și fraude foarte mari.

În acest sens, ar fi Comisia de acord cu ideea că este necesar să se ia în acest sector măsuri care să ducă la eliminarea produselor sau serviciilor ilegale sau neautorizate și, în același timp, să protejeze consumatorii?

**Răspuns dat de dl Barnier în numele Comisiei**

(17 iunie 2014)

Comisia împărtășește preocupările distinsei membre cu privire la proliferarea serviciilor ilegale de jocuri de noroc online. În conformitate cu jurisprudența Curții de Justiție, având în vedere lipsa unei armonizări, statele membre sunt libere să își stabilească propriile obiective de politică în materie de jocuri de noroc. Cu toate acestea, Comisia se angajează să sprijine eforturile statelor membre de a asigura un nivel ridicat de protecție a consumatorilor împotriva site-urilor internet ilegale. În 2012, Comisia a instituit un grup de experți privind serviciile de jocuri de noroc, care reunește autoritățile de reglementare din toate statele membre, în scopul de a spori cooperarea dintre ele și a stimula schimbul de bune practici în privința combaterii ofertelor de jocuri de noroc ilegale.

De asemenea, Comisia este conștientă de riscurile deosebite legate de protejarea drepturilor consumatorilor și de fraudă care sunt asociate cu jocurile de noroc online, în special când acestea nu sunt reglementate în mod corespunzător. Comisia ia măsuri pentru a aborda aceste riscuri, în conformitate cu comunicarea sa din 2012 intitulată „Către un cadru european global pentru jocurile de noroc online”. În vederea consolidării protecției consumatorilor, mai târziu în cursul acestui an, Comisia va prezenta două recomandări: una privind protecția consumatorilor de jocuri de noroc online și alta privind publicitatea responsabilă a serviciilor de jocuri de noroc. În ceea ce privește combaterea activităților frauduloase, Comisia a propus extinderea normelor UE de combatere a spălării banilor (care în prezent se aplică, în conformitate cu legislația UE, numai cazinourilor) pentru a cuprinde toate formele de jocuri de noroc. În plus, Comisia a avut un rol activ, în numele UE, în cadrul negocierilor privind proiectul de convenție a Consiliului Europei privind manipularea competițiilor sportive și pregătește, de asemenea, o inițiativă proprie în acest domeniu.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005355/14  
to the Commission**

**Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Online gaming

The development of new information technologies, accompanied by unregulated economic activities on the EU internal market, has in recent years led to a massive increase in the popularity of online gaming.

Much of this activity is being carried out on an unauthorised basis and it is estimated that a substantial percentage of online gaming sites are unlicensed.

This could have serious consequences, including not only inadequate consumer protection but also massive fraud.

Would the Commission agree that it is therefore necessary to take action to remove illegal or unauthorised products or services from this sector and at the same time protect consumers?

**Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission**

(17 June 2014)

The Commission shares the Honourable Member's concerns about the proliferation of illegal online gambling services. In accordance with the case-law of the Court of Justice, given the absence of harmonisation, Member States are free to set their own gambling policy objectives. Nevertheless, the Commission is committed to supporting their efforts to ensure a high level of consumer protection against illegal websites. In 2012, the Commission established an Expert Group on Gambling Services which brings together regulators from all Member States to enhance their cooperation and stimulate an exchange of best practice in combatting illegal gambling offers.

The Commission is also aware of the particular risks related to the safeguarding of consumers' rights and to fraud which are associated with online gambling, in particular where it is not adequately regulated. The Commission is taking measures to address these risks, in accordance with its 2012 Communication 'Towards a comprehensive European framework on online gambling'. In order to enhance consumer protection, later this year, the Commission will issue two Recommendations: on the protection of consumers of online gambling and on responsible advertising of gambling services. With reference to the fight against fraudulent activities, the Commission has proposed to extend the EU anti-money laundering rules — currently only applicable under EC law to casinos — to all forms of gambling. In addition, the Commission took active part, on behalf of the EU, in the negotiation of the draft Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions and is also preparing its own initiative in this area.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

### Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-005357/14

**lill-Kunsill**

**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**

(23 ta' April 2014)

**Suġġett:** Traffikar tal-bnedmin

It-traffikar tal-bnedmin huwa reat u ksur serju tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem. Spiss huwa marbut mal-kriminalità organizzata u huwa meqjus bhala wahda mill-aktar attivitajiet kriminali fid-dinja li minnha jiġi ġġenerat il-profitt. Il-Kummissjoni tikkalkula li l-ghadd ta' persuni traffikati lejn jew fi hdan l-UE jammonta għal bosta mijiet ta' eluf kull sena. L-approċċ tal-Kummissjoni lejn it-traffikar jiffoka fuq il-prevenzjoni, il-prosekuzzjoni tal-kriminali u l-protezzjoni tal-vittmi. Dan jirrifletti fid-direttiva l-ġdida dwar it-traffikar tal-bnedmin, li giet adottata fil-21 ta' Marzu 2011. Din tistabbilixxi dispożizzjonijiet robusti dwar il-protezzjoni tal-vittmi u tappoġġja l-prinċipji li ma jinghatawx pjeni għal reati żghar u li tinghata assistenza minghajr kundizzjonijiet.

Ir-Rapport intitolat "It-Traffikar tal-Persuni (TiP)" jiġi ppubblikat mill-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika kull sena. Il-pajjiżi kollha huma miġbura fi gradi differenti, bl-ewwel grad jinkludi dawk il-pajjiżi li l-gvernijiet tagħhom huma kompletament konformi mal-istandards minimi fir-rigward tat-traffikar tal-bnedmin. Madankollu, hemm Stati Membri tal-UE li tpoġġew fit-tieni grad.

Il-Kunsill għandu xi pjanijiet biex thejji rapport TiP proprja tagħha? Fir-rigward ta' din il-kwestjon, il-Kunsill iqis li għandu rwol proprju tiegħu fl-iffacilitar u l-iskambju tal-ahjar Prattiki bejn l-Istati Membri?

### **Tweġiba**

(30 ta' Ġunju 2014)

Fil-laqgħat tal-Ministri u l-Uffiċjali Gholja l-Istati Uniti u l-Unjoni Ewropea jiddiskutu regolarment l-iżviluppi rigward il-ġlieda kontra t-traffikar tal-bnedmin. Ir-rapport annwali US TIP (Traffikar tal-Persuni) huwa kkunsidrat bhala sors ta' informazzjoni utli u ta' valur. Il-Kunsill qatt ma ddiskuta dwar pjani biex jithejja r-rapport TIP tiegħu.

Fl-2009, il-Kunsill qabel li jstabbilixxi Network Informali tal-UE ta' Relaturi Nazzjonali jew Mekkanizmi Ekwivalenti dwar it-Traffikar tal-Bnedmin sabiex jiġi ffacilitat l-iskambju tal-ahjar Prattiki fir-rigward tal-ġlieda kontra t-traffikar tal-bnedmin. L-ghan ewlieni ta' dan in-Netwerk huwa li jtejjeb il-fehim tal-fenomeni tat-traffikar tal-bnedmin u li l-Unjoni u l-Istati Membri tagħha jinghataw informazzjoni strateġika oġġettiva, affidabbli, komparabbli u aġġornata. In-Netwerk huwa miftuħ għall-istituzzjonijiet u l-aġenziji tal-UE kif ukoll għal istituzzjonijiet internazzjonali rilevanti bħan-NU.

F'konformità mal-Artikolu 19 tad-Direttiva 2011/36/UE tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill tal-5 ta' April 2011 dwar il-prevenzjoni u l-ġlieda kontra t-traffikar tal-bnedmin u l-protezzjoni tal-vittmi tiegħu <sup>(1)</sup>, Relaturi nazzjonali jew mekkaniżmi ekwivalenti huma responsabbli għall-monitoraġġ tal-implimentazzjoni ta' politika kontra t-traffikar fil-livell nazzjonali u għandhom rwol ewlieni fil-ġbir ta' data dwar it-traffikar kemm fil-livell nazzjonali u dak tal-UE. Il-kompiti ta' tali mekkaniżmi għandhom jinkludu t-tweqqif ta' valutazzjonijiet dwar it-tendenzi tat-traffikar tal-bnedmin, it-tkejjil tar-riżultati tal-azzjonijiet ta' kontra t-traffikar, inkluz il-ġbir tal-istatistika b'kooperazzjoni mill-qrib mal-organizzazzjonijiet rilevanti tas-socjetà civili attivi f'dan il-qasam, u r-rappurtaġġ. Il-Presidenza, b'kooperazzjoni mal-Kummissjoni, tikkoordina l-attivitajiet tan-netwerk u tippresjedi l-laqgħat. In-netwerk jiltaqa' bejn wiehed u iehor kull sitt xhur, u l-Parlament Ewropew huwa mistieden jattendi dawn il-laqgħat.

Sabiex l-Istati Membri jikkontribwixxu għal strateġija tal-Unjoni kkoordinata u kkonsolidata f'dan il-qasam, huma jiffacilitaw ukoll il-kompiti tal-koordinatur ta' kontra t-traffikar (ATC) billi jibagħtu informazzjoni rilevanti li abbażi tagħha l-ATC jikkontribwixxi għar-rappurtar li jsir mill-Kummissjoni kull sentejn dwar il-progress li jkun sar fil-ġlieda kontra t-traffikar tal-bnedmin.

Fl-ahhar nett, "L-Istrateġija tal-UE lejn il-Qerda tat-Traffikar tal-Bnedmin (2012-2016) <sup>(2)</sup>", segwita mill-Konkluzjonijiet tal-Kunsill, adottati f'Ottubru 2012, tiffoka fuq miżuri speċifiċi li jappoġġaw u jikkomplementaw l-implimentazzjoni tal-leġislażzjoni tal-UE dwar it-traffikar tal-bnedmin.

<sup>(1)</sup> G.U.L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> 11780/12 JA1 465 GENVAL 43 COSI 53 ENFOPOL 208 JAIE X 48 RELEX 589 EUROJUST 58 (COM/2012/0286 final).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005357/14**  
**to the Council**  
**Roberta Metsola (PPE)**  
(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Trafficking in human beings

Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime and a gross violation of human rights. It is very often linked with organised crime and is considered as one of the most profitable criminal activities worldwide. The Commission estimates that the number of people trafficked to or within the EU amounts to several hundred thousand a year. The Commission's approach to trafficking focuses on prevention, prosecution of criminals and protection of victims. This is reflected in the new directive on trafficking in human beings, which was adopted on 21 March 2011. It establishes robust provisions on victims' protection and supports the principle of non-punishment for petty crimes and unconditional assistance.

The Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Report is published by the United States of America on a yearly basis. All countries are grouped in different tiers, with tier one being those countries whose governments fully comply with minimum standards in the trafficking of human beings. However, there are Member States which have been placed in the second tier.

Does the Council have any plans to prepare its own TiP report? Does the Council see a role for itself in facilitating the exchange of best practice between the Member States on this issue?

**Reply**  
(30 June 2014)

The US and the European Union regularly discuss developments regarding combating trafficking in human beings at Ministers' and Senior Officials' meetings. The annual US TiP (Trafficking in Persons) report is considered to be a useful and valuable source of information. The Council has never discussed plans to prepare its own TiP report.

In 2009 the Council agreed to establish an Informal EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms on Trafficking in Human Beings in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices in relation to combating trafficking in human beings. The main aim of this Network is to improve understanding of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and to provide the Union and its Member States with objective, reliable, comparable and up-to-date strategic information. The Network is open to EU institutions and EU agencies as well as relevant international institutions such as the UN.

In line with Article 19 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims<sup>(1)</sup>, National rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms are responsible for monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking policy at the national level and play a key role in data collection on trafficking at both national and EU Level. Their tasks include assessing trends in trafficking in human beings, measuring the results of anti-trafficking measures, including the collection of statistics, in close cooperation with relevant civil society organisations active in this field, and reporting. The Presidency, in cooperation with the Commission, coordinates the activities of the network and chairs the meetings. The network meets approximately every six months, and the European Parliament is invited to attend these meetings.

In order to contribute to a coordinated and consolidated Union strategy in this area, Member States also facilitate the tasks of an anti-trafficking coordinator (ATC) by sending relevant information on the basis of which the ATC contributes to reporting carried out by the Commission every two years on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

Finally, the 'EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016)<sup>(2)</sup>', followed up by Council Conclusions, adopted in October 2012, focuses on specific measures that support and complement the implementation of EU legislation on trafficking in human beings.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> 11780/12 JA1 465 Genval 43 COSI 53 Enfopol 208 JAIEX 48 RELEX 589 Eurojust 58 (COM(2012) 286 final).

(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung P-005377/14**  
**an die Kommission**  
**Franziska Keller (Verts/ALE)**  
(23. April 2014)

**Betreff:** Nach dem Urteil des Gerichtshofs zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung: Einreise-/Ausreisestem

Das jüngste Urteil des Gerichtshofs zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung wirft ernsthafte Fragen hinsichtlich der Verhältnismäßigkeit des geplanten Einreise-/Ausreisestem (EES) auf. Gemäß dem EES müssten sich die meisten Drittstaatsangehörigen bei der Einreise in die EU oder der Ausreise aus der EU registrieren lassen und dabei personenbezogene Daten angeben. Ebenfalls geplant sind die Registrierung von Fingerabdrücken sowie die Anbindung des Visa-Informationssystems, das unter anderem personenbezogene Daten und biometrische Daten enthält, an das EES. Diskutiert wird ferner, ob Strafverfolgungsbehörden zu Strafverfolgungszwecken Zugang zu den Daten gewährt werden soll. Nach Schätzungen der Kommission wären jährlich 70 Millionen nicht visumpflichtige Reisende vom EES betroffen.

Darüber hinaus kann zu Strafverfolgungszwecken auf verschiedene andere sich auf Ausländer beziehende EU-Datenbanken zugegriffen werden, insbesondere auf die Eurodac-Datenbank, in der personenbezogene Daten, einschließlich biometrischer Daten von Asylsuchenden, gespeichert sind, sowie auf das Visa-Informationssystem mit personenbezogenen Daten von Visumantragstellern.

Der Gerichtshof hat in seinem Urteil deutlich gemacht, dass die Massenspeicherung personenbezogener Daten unverhältnismäßig ist, wenn sich die Personen, deren Daten auf Vorrat gespeichert werden, auch nur mittelbar in einer Lage befinden, die Anlass zu einer Strafverfolgung geben könnte. Kann die Kommission angesichts dieses Urteils Folgendes mitteilen:

1. Wird die Kommission ihren Vorschlag zum EES zurückziehen und die diesbezügliche Machbarkeitsstudie stoppen, die sie derzeit zusammen mit den Mitgliedstaaten vorbereitet?
2. Wird sie einen Vorschlag zur Aufhebung der Eurodac-Verordnung vorlegen?
3. Wird sie einen Vorschlag zur Beendigung des Zugangs zum Visa-Informationssystem zu Strafverfolgungszwecken vorlegen?

**Antwort von Frau Malmström im Namen der Kommission**  
(14. Juli 2014)

Das Urteil des Gerichtshofs der Europäischen Union (EuGH) in den verbundenen Rechtssachen C-293/12 und C-594/12 hat keine direkte Wirkung auf andere Rechtsinstrumente der EU. Es befasst sich mit einer ganz bestimmten Rechtsgrundlage, der Richtlinie über die Vorratspeicherung von Daten, in Bezug auf die unter diese Richtlinie fallenden Arten von Telekommunikationsdaten.

Die Kommission hat nicht die Absicht, die Eurodac-Verordnung aufzuheben oder dem Zugriff von Strafverfolgungsbehörden auf das Visa-Informationssystem (VIS) ein Ende zu setzen. Die bestehenden, im Hinblick auf Zweck und Anwendungsbereich begrenzten Instrumente legen klare und strenge Regeln für den Datenzugang und die Verarbeitung von Daten fest und bieten wirksame Datenschutzgarantien.

Die Kommission beabsichtigt auch nicht, den EES-Vorschlag zurückzuziehen oder die diesbezügliche Studie zu stoppen. Sie hat nicht vorgeschlagen, dass zu Strafverfolgungszwecken ab der Inbetriebnahme des Systems Zugang zum EES gewährt wird. Nach dem Vorschlag sollte zwei Jahre nach dem Start des EES-Systems in einer Bewertung geprüft werden, welchen Beitrag das Einreise-/Ausreisestem im Kampf gegen terroristische und sonstige schwerwiegende Straftaten leisten kann. Dabei sind die Erfahrungen mit dem Zugang der Strafverfolgungsbehörden zum Visa-Informationssystem zu berücksichtigen. Sollte der Zugang zu Strafverfolgungszwecken gewährt werden, so müssten entsprechend dem Urteil des Gerichtshofs besondere Garantien eingeführt werden.

(English version)

**Question for written answer P-005377/14  
to the Commission**

**Franziska Keller (Verts/ALE)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Post Court of Justice data retention decision: entry/exit system

The recent judgment of the Court of Justice on data retention raises serious questions on the proportionality of the envisaged entry/exit system (EES). The EES would require most third-country nationals to register using personal data when entering or leaving the EU. Registration of fingerprints is also envisaged, as is linking the visa information system, which includes personal data and biometrics of visa holders, with the EES. Granting law enforcement agencies access to the data for law enforcement purposes is also discussed. According to Commission estimates, the EES would affect 70 million visa-free travellers per year.

In addition, several other EU databases related to foreigners allow for law enforcement access, in particular the Eurodac database, in which personal data including biometrics of asylum-seekers is stored, and the visa information system with the personal data of visa applicants.

In its ruling, the Court of Justice made it clear that the mass storage of personal data 'without the persons whose data are retained being, even indirectly, in a situation which is liable to give rise to criminal prosecutions' is disproportionate. In the light of this ruling:

1. Will the Commission withdraw its EES proposal and stop the related feasibility study which it is currently preparing together with the Member States?
2. Will the Commission present a proposal to repeal the Eurodac Regulation?
3. Will the Commission present a proposal to terminate law enforcement access to the visa information system?

**Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission**

(14 July 2014)

The judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Joined Cases C-293/12 and C-594/12 has no direct effect on other EU legal instruments. It addresses a very specific legal instrument, i.e. the Data Retention Directive, in relation to the types of telecommunications data covered under that directive.

The Commission is not planning to repeal the Eurodac Regulation nor to terminate law enforcement access to the Visa Information System (VIS). The existing instruments, which are limited in purpose and scope, set out clear and strict rules for access to and processing of data and provide for effective data protection safeguards.

The Commission does also not intend to withdraw the EES proposal nor to stop the related study. The Commission did not propose law enforcement access to the EES as from the start of its operation. The proposal sets out that an evaluation, two years after the start of EES operations, should examine the contribution the entry-exit system could make in the fight against terrorist and other serious criminal offences, taking into account the experience with law enforcement access to the VIS. Should access for law enforcement purposes be granted, the necessary specific safeguards would need to be introduced in line with the Court's reasoning.

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(Deutsche Fassung)

**Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-005380/14  
an die Kommission**

**Hiltrud Breyer (Verts/ALE)**

(23. April 2014)

**Betrifft:** Größte Giftmülldeponie Europas: Weiterbetrieb trotz fehlender Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung

Die im ehemaligen Sperrgebiet der DDR gelegene größte Giftmülldeponie Europas Schöneberg/Ihlenberg nahm im Jahre 1979 ohne einen Standortsicherheitsnachweis den Betrieb auf. Mehrere Wasserwerke in der Umgebung wurden inzwischen geschlossen. Gegen eine geplante Erweiterung auf 32 Millionen Tonnen hat der NABU Klage eingereicht.

1. Wie beurteilt die Kommission den Weiterbetrieb der Deponie, für die bis heute weder eine Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung noch ein Planfeststellungsverfahren durchgeführt worden ist?
2. Auf welcher rechtlichen Grundlage ist ein Weiterbetrieb unter diesen Voraussetzungen überhaupt möglich?
3. Wurden der EU fristgerecht der Zustandsbericht der Grund- und Oberflächengewässer betroffenen Wassereinzugsgebiet gemäß der WRRL gemeldet?
4. Wurden von den betroffenen Bundesländern entsprechend der Fristen der WRRL abgestimmte Maßnahmenpläne zur Wiederherstellung der Gewässer in einem einwandfreien ökologischen Zustand erstellt? Wo sind diese einsehbar?
5. Wurden hierfür EU-Mittel beantragt (in welcher Höhe)?
6. In welcher Höhe können EU-Fördermittel für die Umsetzung der WRRL in Anspruch genommen werden?

**Antwort von Herrn Potočník im Namen der Kommission**

(14. Juli 2014)

Zu Punkt 1: Im vorliegenden Fall kommt die Richtlinie 2011/92/EU über die Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung bei bestimmten öffentlichen und privaten Projekten <sup>(1)</sup> nicht zur Anwendung, da das betreffende Projekt vor Inkrafttreten dieser Richtlinie genehmigt und in Betrieb genommen wurde.

Zu Punkt 2: Das Genehmigungsverfahren ist Sache der Mitgliedstaaten, und die Kommission sammelt keine Daten über erteilte Genehmigungen und deren Inhalt. Da die Existenz der betreffenden Deponie von den deutschen Behörden an die entsprechenden EU-Datenbanken (E-PRTR) gemeldet wurde und im Bericht zur Abfallwirtschaft des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern <sup>(2)</sup> erfasst ist, hat die Kommission keinen Grund zur Annahme, dass die Deponie ohne Genehmigung arbeitet, und anderslautende Informationen liegen der Kommission nicht vor. Dies schließt aber nicht aus, dass die Kommission die Frage eingehender prüfen wird, sollte sie künftig konkrete Anhaltspunkte für einen möglichen Verstoß gegen das EU-Umweltrecht erhalten.

Zu den Punkten 3 und 4: Deutschland hat seine Bewirtschaftungspläne für die Einzugsgebiete <sup>(3)</sup> innerhalb der in der Wasserrahmenrichtlinie <sup>(4)</sup> gesetzten Frist (d. h. im Dezember 2009) vorgelegt. Die Pläne enthalten die in dieser Richtlinie vorgesehenen Maßnahmenprogramme. Die Maßnahmen dürften seit 2013 in Gang sein; bis Ende 2015 muss ein guter Gewässerzustand erreicht sein.

Zu den Punkten 5 und 6: Für die Deponie wurden keine EFRE-Fördermittel gewährt. Es gibt keine Obergrenze für die Förderung aus dem EFRE, sofern der Haushaltsrahmen eingehalten wird; ab 2014 gelten — in Einklang mit Artikel 4 der Verordnung (EU) Nr. 1301/2013 — lediglich Bestimmungen für die thematische Konzentration der EFRE-Fördermittel.

<sup>(1)</sup> ABl. L 26 vom 28.1.2012.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://service.mvnet.de/\\_php/download.php?datei\\_id=104694](http://service.mvnet.de/_php/download.php?datei_id=104694)

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map\\_mc/countries/germany\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/countries/germany_en.htm)

<sup>(4)</sup> ABl. L 327 vom 22.12.2000.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005380/14  
to the Commission**

**Hiltrud Breyer (Verts/ALE)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Continued operation of largest toxic landfill site in Europe despite failure to carry out an environmental impact assessment

The largest toxic landfill site in Europe, located in what was a previously the GDR restricted area of Schöneberg/Ihlenberg, opened in 1979 without any site safety certification. A number of waterworks in the area have since been closed down and the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Unit (NABU) has lodged a protest against plans to increase the landfill site capacity to 32 million tonnes.

1. What view does the Commission take of the continued operation of the site in the absence of either an environmental impact assessment or project approval plan to date?
2. On what legal basis can continued operation of the site be considered in any way admissible under the circumstances?
3. Was there a report on the state of ground and surface water in the catchment area submitted to the EU in accordance with the water framework directive (WFD)?
4. Have the states concerned drawn up a programme of measures to restore water quality to an ecologically unimpeachable standard within the deadline specified by the WFD? When are such measures to be expected?
5. Has EU funding been requested for this purpose and, if so, how much?
6. What level of EU funding may be requested for implementation of the WFD?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(14 July 2014)

1. Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment <sup>(1)</sup> is not applicable, as the project was authorised and operating prior to the entry into force of that directive.
2. As the permitting process falls under the responsibility of Member States, the Commission does not collect information concerning issued permits and their contents. As the presence of the landfill in question is reported by German authorities to EU databases (E-PRTR) and it is covered in the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern waste management report <sup>(2)</sup>, the Commission has no grounds to assume the landfill operates without necessary permits. The Commission has no information at its disposal that would suggest otherwise. This would not preclude the Commission to investigate the matter further should it receive concrete evidence of a possible breach of EU environmental law.
- 3 and 4. Germany submitted its river basin management plans <sup>(3)</sup> by the deadline given in the Water Framework Directive <sup>(4)</sup> (i.e. December 2009). The German river basin management plans contain programmes of measures as required by that directive. The measures should have been operational from 2013 and good status of waters has to be achieved by the end of 2015.
- 5 and 6. There was no ERDF-support granted to the landfill. There is no limitation of support within the ERDF as long as the budgetary framework is respected; as from 2014 on, there are only concentration criteria in line with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) Nr. 1301/2013 as to which thematic areas ERDF support should be spent on.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 26, 28.1.2012.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://service.mvnet.de/\\_php/download.php?datei\\_id=104694](http://service.mvnet.de/_php/download.php?datei_id=104694)

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map\\_mc/countries/germany\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/countries/germany_en.htm)

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 327, 22.12.2000.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005397/14  
to the Commission  
Diane Dodds (NI)  
(23 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Recent protests in Donetsk

Given the recent protests in Donetsk, what steps are being taken by the Commission to help protect Ukrainian sovereignty in the city, and wider region, from being undermined by further Russian agitation?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission  
(15 July 2014)**

The EU Heads of State and Government have underlined in their Statement of 27 May 2014 to stand firm in upholding Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They stressed that the efforts by all sides should aim at solving the crisis politically, putting an end to violence and tensions in Eastern Ukraine, including disarmament of illegal armed groups. They underlined that they expect the Russian Federation to use its leverage on the armed separatists to de-escalate the situation in Eastern Ukraine and to prevent the crossing of separatists and weapons into Ukraine <sup>(1)</sup>.

Moreover, the EU Foreign Ministers on 12 May 2014 agreed to expand the criteria allowing individuals and entities to be subject to visa ban and asset freeze, allowing for the possible listing of natural persons responsible for actively supporting or implementing actions or policies which undermine the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, or stability or security in Ukraine, or which obstruct the work of international organisations in Ukraine <sup>(2)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142863.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142863.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142561.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142561.pdf)

(Magyar változat)

**Írásbeli választ igénylő kérdés E-005398/14**  
**a Bizottság számára**  
**Gál Kinga (PPE)**  
(2014. április 23.)

**Tárgy:** Gyermekek jogainak figyelmen kívül hagyása bírósági eljárás során

Fiona Shaw, magyar édesanya és francia édesapa gyermekének ügye a gyermek érdekeinek teljes figyelmen kívül hagyása és az elfogatóparancs hibás alkalmazásának kategóriájába tartozik. A Franciaországban zajló bírósági eljárás során teljes egészében figyelmen kívül hagyták a kiskorú gyermek érdekeit, testi és lelki épségének megőrzését. Sérült a Magyarországon élő édesanya tisztességes eljáráshoz való joga, a hatóságok folyamatosan vétettek az eljárásban részt vevő édesanya jogai ellen:

- a francia hatóságok nem vagy késedelemmel válaszolnak a hivatalos megkeresésekre;
- bírósági idézések késedelmes kiküldése (a tárgyalás napján kézbesítik az idézést);
- az édesanya ellen kiadott európai elfogatóparancs visszavonása többéves késedelemmel történt, amely megakadályozta a Franciaországba történő utazását;
- nem érvényesül a *ne bis in idem* elv; és
- a hatóságok korlátozzák az édesanya és gyermeke közötti kapcsolattartást, aminek köszönhetően több mint három és fél éve nem tud érintkezni az édesanya gyermekével.

Mit tud tenni a Bizottság annak érdekében, hogy egy tagállam hatóságai minden esetben jóhiszeműen, a gyermek érdekeinek mindenkori figyelembevételével járjanak el az egyes ügyekben? Mivel tudja elősegíteni a Bizottság, hogy Fiona Shaw ügye mihamarabb, a gyermek számára kielégítő módon rendeződjön?

**Johannes Hahn válasza a Bizottság nevében**  
(2014. július 4.)

A Bizottság sajnálatosnak tartja az eset körülményeit, amelyet a visszatérési eljárás szakaszában vizsgált meg. Mindazonáltal hatásköre nem terjed ki arra, hogy helyettesítsen a nemzeti bíróság által egy egyedi esetben készített jogi értékelést a láthatási jogokra vonatkozóan. Amennyiben az édesanya nem találja kielégítőnek a gyermek láthatására vonatkozó jelenlegi megoldást, az illetékes bíróságnál kérelmezheti annak módosítását. A hatékony végrehajtás biztosítása érdekében az anya támogatást igényelhet az érintett tagállam központi hatóságaitól. Ezen túlmenően a polgári és kereskedelmi ügyekben illetékes Európai Igazságügyi Hálózat platformot biztosít az ilyen hatóságoknak az ügyek során felmerülő nehézségek megoldására.

A Bizottság számára hasznosak a szóban forgó ügygel kapcsolatos információk, és azokat figyelembe fogja venni az uniós jog végrehajtásának nyomon követése során. A Bizottság nemrégiben elfogadta a szülői felelősségről szóló 2001/2003/EK rendeletre, illetve az iratkézbesítésről szóló 1393/2007/EK rendeletre vonatkozó értékelő jelentést. Az esetleges javításokról és azok mikéntjéről további konzultációkat követően fog döntést hozni. A szülői felelősséggel kapcsolatos szabályok esetleges hiányosságainak feltérképezését célzó nyilvános konzultáció már jelenleg is folyik.

Az európai elfogatóparancsot illetően a Schengeni Információs Rendszerről (SIS II) szóló, 2007. évi határozat értelmében az európai elfogatóparancsokhoz kapcsolódó SIS II figyelmeztető jelzést a kiadásától számítva legfeljebb három év elteltével törlik, kivéve, ha a jelzést kiadó tagállam továbbra is fenn kívánja azt tartani. Maga az európai elfogatóparancs vagy az annak alapjául szolgáló nemzeti elfogatóparancs kiadásának esetleges felülvizsgálata azonban a nemzeti jog hatálya alá tartozik. A felmerülő nehézségekkel elsősorban a szakértői ülések és a büntetőügyekben illetékes Európai Igazságügyi Hálózat ülésai keretében foglalkoznak.



(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005398/14  
to the Commission**

**Kinga Gál (PPE)**

(23 April 2014)

*Subject:* Disregard for a child's rights in legal proceedings

In the case of Fiona Shaw — the child of a Hungarian mother and a French father — the child's rights have been entirely disregarded, while the Arrest Warrant has also been misused. During the legal proceedings in France, the young child's interests and her physical and mental health have been entirely ignored. The right of the mother, living in Hungary, to equitable legal proceedings was breached, and the authorities constantly infringed the rights of the mother, who was a party to the proceedings:

- the French authorities do not reply to official requests, or do so only after a delay;
- summonses to attend court are sent late (and received only on the day of the hearing);
- the European Arrest Warrant issued against the mother was withdrawn several years too late, which prevented her from travelling to France;
- the double jeopardy principle is being disregarded; and
- the authorities are restricting contact between the mother and her child, as a result of which the mother has had no contact with her daughter for three and a half years.

What can the Commission do to compel the authorities in a Member State to act in good faith in every case, and in the child's interests at all times, in individual cases? How can the Commission help secure a resolution of Fiona Shaw's case as soon as possible in a manner satisfactory to the child?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission**

(4 July 2014)

The Commission regrets the circumstances of the case which it closely examined at the return procedure stage. However, it is not within the remit of its functions to substitute the appraisal made by a national court with respect to an access rights determination in an individual case. If the mother is not satisfied with the current access rights arrangements over the child, she may seek their modification before the competent court. To secure their effective exercise, she may seek the assistance of the Central Authorities in the Member States concerned. In addition, the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters offers a platform to such authorities to solve difficulties in specific cases.

The information on this case is useful to the Commission and will be taken into account in its monitoring of the implementation of EC law. Recently, it adopted evaluation reports on Regulations No 2001/2003 on parental responsibility and No 1393/2007 on the service of documents. After further consultations, it will be decided if and how they may be improved. In particular, a public consultation is ongoing to identify possible shortcomings notably in parental responsibility matters.

As concerns the European arrest warrant, the 2007 Schengen Information System (SIS II) Decision provides that when a SIS II alert on a European arrest warrant is launched, the alert is deleted after three years maximum unless the issuing Member State maintains it. However, the possible review of the issuance itself of a European arrest warrant or of the national arrest warrant on which it is based is governed by national law. Any difficulties encountered are in particular discussed at expert meetings and meetings of the European Judicial Network in criminal matters.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

**Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-005423/14**  
**προς την Επιτροπή**  
**Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)**  
(23 Απριλίου 2014)

**Θέμα:** Βελτίωση των όρων χρηματοδότησης των Μικρομεσαίων Επιχειρήσεων

Το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο, στην έκθεσή του σχετικά με τη μακροπρόθεσμη χρηματοδότηση της ευρωπαϊκής οικονομίας (2013/2175(INI)), συνιστά, μεταξύ άλλων, στην Ευρωπαϊκή Τράπεζα Επενδύσεων (ΕΤΕπ) «να συγκροτήσει έναν ειδικό κλάδο για τη χρηματοδότηση ΜΜΕ με εξατομικευμένους δανειακούς όρους» (Παράγραφος 37).

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Θεωρεί χρήσιμη για την ευρωπαϊκή οικονομία και τις ΜΜΕ, και πρακτικά υλοποιήσιμη, την πιο πάνω εισήγηση του Κοινοβουλίου;
2. Προτίθεται να προωθήσει τις αναγκαίες διαδικασίες για την υλοποίησή της;

**Απάντηση του κ. Kallas εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής**  
(9 Ιουλίου 2014)

Το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Επενδύσεων (ΕΤΕ) — που ιδρύθηκε το 1994 — αποτελεί θυγατρική της Ευρωπαϊκής Τράπεζας Επενδύσεων (ΕΤΕπ). Το ΕΤΕ ειδικεύεται στη χρηματοδότηση των ΜΜΕ και διαχειρίζεται ευρύ φάσμα χρηματοδοτικών μέσων της ΕΕ, που παρέχουν μετοχικό κεφάλαιο και εγγυήσεις για λογαριασμό της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής.

Στα συμπεράσματά του της 19ης/20ής Δεκεμβρίου 2013, το Ευρωπαϊκό Συμβούλιο υπογράμμισε ότι «η αποκατάσταση της κανονικής δανειακής ροής στην οικονομία, και ειδικότερα στις ΜΜΕ, παραμένει προτεραιότητα» και εξέφρασε ικανοποίηση «για την εφαρμογή της αύξησης κεφαλαίου της ΕΤΕπ που επιτρέπει στην τράπεζα να αυξήσει τον δανεισμό σε όλη την ΕΕ κατά 38%, δηλαδή μέχρι 62 δισεκ. εφέτος». Επίσης, εξέφρασε ικανοποίηση για «τη στήριξη του Ομίλου ΕΤΕπ, κατά το 2013, ύψους 23,1 δισεκ. ευρώ για ΜΜΕ και εταιρείες μεσαίας κεφαλαιοποίησης στην ΕΕ των 28». Ο Όμιλος ΕΤΕπ αποτελείται από την ΕΤΕπ και το ΕΤΕ.

Το Ευρωπαϊκό Συμβούλιο κάλεσε επίσης την Επιτροπή και την ΕΤΕπ «να ενισχύσουν περισσότερο τις δυνατότητες του ΕΤΕ, αυξάνοντας τα κεφάλαιά του, με σκοπό την επίτευξη τελικής συμφωνίας μέχρι τον Μάιο του 2014». Στη συνέχεια, το Συμβούλιο εξέδωσε, στις 6 Μαΐου 2014, απόφαση του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου σχετικά με τη συμμετοχή της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης στην αύξηση του κεφαλαίου του ΕΤΕ. Η αύξηση του κεφαλαίου από 3 δισεκ. ευρώ σε 4,5 δισεκ. ευρώ, η οποία πρόκειται να εγκριθεί σύντομα από τη Γενική Συνέλευση των Μετόχων του ΕΤΕ, στοχεύει στη διατήρηση της ανάπτυξης στο πλαίσιο των δραστηριοτήτων του ΕΤΕ προς στήριξη των ΜΜΕ.

Επιπλέον, η ΕΤΕπ δημιούργησε ένα νέο χρηματοδοτικό σχήμα, ύψους 4 δισεκ. ευρώ για την επόμενη 7ετία, το λεγόμενο «EIB Group Risk Enhancement Mandate (EREM)», ως συμπλήρωμα της προσφοράς εγγυήσεων και τόνωσης πιστώσεων του ΕΤΕ, προκειμένου να ανακουφιστούν τα προβλήματα χρηματοδότησης των ΜΜΕ και να προωθηθεί η ευρωπαϊκή οικονομία.

Η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει επίσης την κυρία βουλευτή στις απαντήσεις της στις γραπτές ερωτήσεις E-013771-13, E-013293/2013, E-002695/2013 και P-013727/2013.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005423/14  
to the Commission  
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)  
(23 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Better terms for the funding of small and medium-sized enterprises

In its report on long-term financing of the European economy (2013/2175(INI)), the European Parliament 'recommends that the EIB set up a special branch for SME funding with tailor-made loan conditions' (paragraph 37).

1. Does the Commission consider that Parliament's recommendation could be of benefit to the European economy and SMEs and that it is feasible in practice?
2. Will it take the necessary measures to implement the recommendation?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission  
(9 July 2014)**

The European Investment Fund (EIF) — set up in 1994 — is a subsidiary of the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIF is specialised in SME finance and manages a wide range of EU financial instruments providing equity and guarantees on behalf of the European Commission.

In its conclusions of 19/20 December 2013, the European Council underlined that 'restoring normal lending to the economy, in particular to SMEs, remains a priority' and welcomed 'the implementation of the EIB capital increase enabling the Bank to step up its lending across the EU by 38%, to EUR 62 billion this year.' It also welcomed 'the support by the EIB Group in 2013 of EUR 23.1 billion for SME businesses and mid-cap companies throughout the EU 28'. The EIB Group consists of the EIB and the EIF.

The European Council also called on the Commission and the EIB 'to further enhance the EIF capacity through an increase in its capital with a view to reaching final agreement by May 2014.' Following this, the Council adopted on 6 May 2014 a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the European Union in the capital increase of the EIF. The capital increase from EUR 3 billion to EUR 4.5 billion, which is to be adopted shortly by the General Assembly of EIF shareholders, aims to sustain growth in the EIF's activity in support of SMEs.

In addition, a new mandate, the EIB Group Risk Enhancement Mandate for an amount of EUR 4 billion, has been put in place by the EIB to complement EIF's guarantee and credit enhancement product over the next 7 years, to alleviate the financing problems of SMEs and stimulate Europe's economy.

The Commission would also refer the Honourable Member to its replies to written questions E-013771-13, E-013293/2013, E-002695/2013 and P-013727/2013.

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(Ελληνική έκδοση)

**Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-005427/14**  
**προς την Επιτροπή**  
**Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)**  
(23 Απριλίου 2014)

Θέμα: Σχετικά με την ερώτησή μου αρ. E-014065/2013

Σε απάντησή της στην πιο πάνω ερώτησή μου, η Επιτροπή αναφέρεται στα συμπεράσματα του Συμβουλίου της 17ης Δεκεμβρίου 2013, «στα οποία τονίζεται ότι η Τουρκία πρέπει να δεσμευθεί ανεπιφύλακτα σε καλές σχέσεις γειτονίας και στην ειρηνική επίλυση διαφορών σύμφωνα με το Χάρτη των Ηνωμένων Εθνών, με προσφυγή, εφόσον απαιτείται, στο Διεθνές Δικαστήριο. Η Ένωση εξέφρασε σοβαρές ανησυχίες και κάλεσε την Τουρκία να αποφύγει κάθε είδους απειλή ή ενέργεια κατά κράτους μέλους, ή κάθε πηγή προστριβών ή ενεργειών που θα μπορούσαν να βλάψουν τις σχέσεις καλής γειτονίας και την ειρηνική διευθέτηση των διαφορών».

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Θεωρεί ότι υπήρξε ουσιαστική ανταπόκριση εκ μέρους της Τουρκίας στις παραινέσεις της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης;
2. Αφού δεν υπήρξε καμία ανταπόκριση, παρά μόνο νέες προκλητικές ενέργειες, απειλές και αμφισβήτηση της κυριαρχίας της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας (βλέπε περίπτωση ερευνητικού σκάφους Μπαρμπαρός εντός κυπριακής ΑΟΖ), γιατί η Επιτροπή εισηγείται το άνοιγμα νέων διαπραγματευτικών κεφαλαίων;
3. Εκτός από παραινέσεις και εκκλήσεις προς την Τουρκία, ποια άλλα συγκεκριμένα, πρακτικά και αποτελεσματικά μέτρα μπορεί να λάβει η Επιτροπή ώστε να πείσει την Τουρκία να συμμορφωθεί με τις υποχρεώσεις της έναντι της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας και της ΕΕ;

**Απάντηση του κ. Füle εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής**  
(10 Ιουλίου 2014)

Η Επιτροπή εξακολουθεί να παρακολουθεί τα ζητήματα που έθεσε η κ. βουλευτής και θα αναφερθεί σχετικά στην ετήσια έκθεση προόδου για την Τουρκία.

Η εκτίμηση της Επιτροπής είναι ότι ο πιο κατάλληλος τρόπος για την αντιμετώπιση των ζητημάτων αυτών παραμένει η ενίσχυση της συνεργασίας της ΕΕ με την Τουρκία. Ταυτόχρονα, η Τουρκία θα μπορέσει να επιταχύνει τον ρυθμό των διαπραγματεύσεων μέσω, μεταξύ άλλων, της τήρησης των συμβατικών της υποχρεώσεων έναντι της ΕΕ.

Η Επιτροπή θα συνεχίσει να απαιτεί την απόλυτη προσήλωση της Τουρκίας στις σχέσεις καλής γειτονίας και στην ειρηνική επίλυση των διαφορών σύμφωνα με τον Χάρτη των Ηνωμένων Εθνών, προσφεύγοντας, εφόσον το κρίνει αναγκαίο, στο Διεθνές Δικαστήριο.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005427/14  
to the Commission  
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)  
(23 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Question for written answer No E-014065/2013

In answer to the above question, the Commission referred to the Council conclusions of 17 December 2013, stating that Turkey needs to commit itself unequivocally to good neighbourly relations and to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice. The Union had expressed serious concern, and urged Turkey to avoid any kind of threat or action directed against a Member State and to avoid any sources of friction or any actions that could damage good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission consider that Turkey has responded favourably to EU admonitions?
2. If its only response has been further provocation, threats and challenges to the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus (such as the presence of the exploration vessel *Barbaros* within its exclusive economic zone), why is the Commission recommending the opening of further negotiating chapters?
3. Aside from admonitions and appeals to Turkey, what other specific, concrete and effective measures can the Commission take with a view to ensuring compliance by Turkey with its obligations to the Republic of Cyprus and the EU?

**Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission  
(10 July 2014)**

The Commission continues to monitor the issues raised by the Honourable Member and will report on them in its yearly Progress Report on Turkey.

The Commission's assessment is that the most appropriate way to address such issues remains for the EU to enhance its engagement with Turkey. At the same time Turkey will be able to accelerate the pace of negotiations by *inter alia* respecting its contractual obligations towards the EU.

The Commission will continue to insist that Turkey commits itself unequivocally to good neighbourly relations and to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, having recourse, if necessary to the International Court of Justice.

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*(Version française)*

**Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-005437/14  
à la Commission  
Sonia Alfano (ALDE)  
(23 avril 2014)**

*Objet:* Représentations nationales au sein de la Commission

La Commission pourrait-elle me fournir des statistiques détaillées sur la part de chaque nationalité parmi les chefs d'unité de l'ensemble des directions générales, ainsi que dans les cabinets des commissaires, sous les Commissions Barroso I et Barroso II?

**Réponse donnée par M. Šefčovič au nom de la Commission  
(16 juillet 2014)**

La Commission transmet directement à l'Honorable Parlementaire et au secrétariat du Parlement un tableau contenant les informations demandées au sujet des chefs de cabinets des commissaires.

En vertu de l'article 7 du statut des fonctionnaires, ceux-ci sont nommés à leur poste, qu'il s'agisse de fonctions d'encadrement ou non, sans considération de nationalité. Par conséquent, la Commission estime qu'il n'est pas pertinent de diffuser des informations concernant la nationalité des chefs d'unité.

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*(Versione italiana)*

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005437/14  
alla Commissione  
Sonia Alfano (ALDE)  
(23 aprile 2014)**

Oggetto: Rappresentanti nazionali in seno alla Commissione

Può la Commissione fornire statistiche dettagliate sulla nazionalità dei capiunità dell'insieme delle DG, nonché dei gabinetti dei commissari sotto le Commissioni Barroso I et Barroso II?

**Risposta di Maroš Šefčovič a nome della Commissione  
(16 luglio 2014)**

La Commissione invia direttamente all'onorevole deputato e al segretariato del Parlamento una tabella contenente le informazioni richieste sui capi di gabinetto dei commissari.

A norma dell'articolo 7 dello statuto, i funzionari sono nominati a un determinato posto, direttivo o non direttivo, senza tener conto della nazionalità. La Commissione, quindi, non ritiene pertinente divulgare informazioni sulla nazionalità dei capi unità.

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*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-005437/14  
to the Commission  
Sonia Alfano (ALDE)  
(23 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Nationalities represented in the Commission

Can the Commission provide a detailed statistical breakdown of the nationalities of heads of unit in all directorates-general, and in Commissioners' private offices, under the Barroso I and Barroso II Commissions?

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission  
(16 July 2014)**

The Commission is sending directly to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat a table containing the requested information concerning the Heads of Commissioners' private offices.

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, officials are appointed to a post, either of management or not, without regard to nationality. Therefore, the Commission does not consider it relevant to disseminate information about nationality of Heads of Unit.

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(Verżjoni Maltija)

**Mistoqsija għal tweġiba bil-miktub E-005484/14**  
**lill-Kummissjoni**  
**Marlene Mizzi (S&D)**  
(24 ta' April 2014)

Suġġett: Nies b'diżabilitajiet

Fir-rigward tal-Konvenzjoni tan-NU tal-2006 li tikkoncerna nies b'livelli varji ta' diżabilità, x'inhi tagħmel il-Kummissjoni biex tgħin dawn in-nies halli jgħixu stil ta' hajja indipendenti?

**Tweġiba mogħtija mis-Sur Hahn fisem il-Kummissjoni**  
(11 ta' Lulju 2014)

Il-Kummissjoni tistieden lill-Onorevoli Membru sabiex jirreferi għat-tweġibiet tagħha għall-mistoqsijiet bil-miktub E-010955/2013 u E-005073/2014. <sup>(1)</sup>

Il-proposta tal-Kummissjoni rigward ir-Regolament dwar il-Fond Soċjali Ewropew imsemmi fit-tweġiba għall-mistoqsija bil-miktub E-010955/2013 wasslet għall-adozzjoni tar-Regolament (UE) Nru 1304/2013 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill tas-17 ta' Diċembru 2013 dwar il-Fond Soċjali Ewropew u li jhassar ir-Regolament tal-Kunsill (KE) Nru 1081/2006. <sup>(2)</sup> L-Artikolu 3 (b) (iv) ta' dan ir-Regolament jidentifika "t-titjib tal-aċċess għal servizzi affordabbli, sostenibbli u ta' kwalità għolja, inklużi servizzi tal-kura tas-saħħa u servizzi soċjali ta' interess ġenerali" bħala waħda mis-sitt prijoritajiet ta' investment sabiex jintlaħaq l-għan li jiġu promossi l-inklużjoni soċjali u l-ġlieda kontra l-faqar u kull diskriminazzjoni.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/mt/parliamentary-questions.html>

<sup>(2)</sup> ĠU L 347, 20/12/2013, p. 470.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005484/14  
to the Commission  
Marlene Mizzi (S&D)  
(24 April 2014)**

*Subject:* People with disabilities

In view of the 2006 UN Convention which concerns people with various levels of disability, what is the Commission doing to help these people live an independent lifestyle?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission  
(11 July 2014)**

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answers to written questions E-010955/2013 and E-005073/2014. <sup>(1)</sup>

The Commission's proposal for the European Social Fund Regulation mentioned in the answer to the Written Question E-010955/2013 has resulted in the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006. <sup>(2)</sup> Article 3 (b) (iv) of this regulation identifies 'enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services including healthcare and social services of general interest' as one of the six investment priorities for achieving the objective of promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and any discrimination.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html>  
<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005491/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Progetto Next Generation Identification

In seguito a una richiesta avanzata in sede legale dalla Electronic Frontier Foundation, è stato svelato che il Federal bureau of investigation sta compilando una banca dati che raccoglie milioni di dati biometrici relativi a milioni di persone, incensurate e non: si tratta di informazioni quali impronte digitali, impronte del palmo della mano, scansione dell'iride, biometria dei volti, al fine di creare dei profili individuali per ogni persona «misurata». Si tratta del programma Next Generation Identification, una sorta di schedatura di massa che verrà condivisa con altre agenzie federali e forze dell'ordine statunitensi.

Può la Commissione europea chiarire se:

1. è a conoscenza del progetto?
2. ritiene che tra le informazioni catalogate possano esserci informazioni relative a cittadini europei? In tal caso, questo genere di schedatura potrebbe rappresentare una violazione della normativa europea relativa alla protezione dei dati e della privacy?

**Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione**

(7 luglio 2014)

Il diritto dell'UE non è applicabile al trattamento dei dati a fini dell'applicazione della legge che viene svolto esclusivamente negli Stati Uniti. Qualora i dati personali sottoposti a trattamento negli Stati Uniti provengano dall'UE, il caso può rientrare nel campo di applicazione della decisione quadro 2008/977/GAI del Consiglio, che si applica al trasferimento dei dati personali oggetto di scambio tra gli Stati membri dell'UE. In alternativa o in aggiunta, i dati possono essere stati trasferiti in virtù di un accordo tra gli Stati Uniti e uno Stato membro dell'UE, ad esempio un accordo di mutua assistenza giudiziaria o in materia di prevenzione di reati gravi, nel qual caso le disposizioni di tali accordi devono essere rispettate.

La riforma della protezione dei dati dell'UE, in particolare la direttiva sulla protezione dei dati per la polizia e le autorità giudiziarie penali, mira a rafforzare la protezione dei dati personali degli individui, garantendo nel contempo un'efficace cooperazione in materia di applicazione della legge. Inoltre, la Commissione sta negoziando dal 2011 con gli Stati Uniti un accordo quadro sulla protezione dei dati nel settore della cooperazione giudiziaria e di polizia («accordo quadro»). La Commissione mira a garantire un elevato livello di protezione per i cittadini dell'UE quando i loro dati siano trattati da parte delle autorità statunitensi. I cittadini dell'UE dovrebbero anche godere del diritto alla parità di trattamento con i cittadini degli Stati Uniti per quanto riguarda l'esecutività dei loro diritti, compreso il ricorso giudiziario.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005491/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Next Generation Identification Project

Following a court petition filed by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, it has been revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is compiling a data base with millions of biometric details on millions of people, whether or not they have criminal backgrounds. The information includes fingerprints, palm prints, iris scans and facial biometrics, the aim being to create individual profiles for each person 'measured'. The project, known as Next Generation Identification, involves the creation of a kind of mass police record that will be shared with other US federal agencies and police departments.

1. Is the Commission aware of this project?
2. Might the information retained on file include information on European citizens? If so, could this kind of record of personal details be in breach of European rules on data protection and privacy?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission**

(7 July 2014)

EC law is not applicable to data processing for law enforcement purposes which takes place only in the US. Should personal data processed in the US originate from the EU, it may fall within the scope of Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA. This decision is applicable to the transfer of personal data which has been exchanged between EU Member States. Alternatively or additionally, the data may have been transferred pursuant to an agreement between the US and an EU Member State, for example on Mutual Legal Assistance or the Prevention of Serious Crime, in which case the provisions of those agreements must be respected.

The EU data protection reform, in particular the Data Protection Directive for Police and Criminal Justice Authorities, aims at strengthening the protection of personal data of individuals while ensuring effective law enforcement cooperation. In addition, the Commission has been negotiating with the US since 2011 on a framework agreement on data protection in the field of police and judicial cooperation (the 'umbrella' agreement). The Commission aims to ensure a high level of data protection for individuals in the EU when their data is processed by US authorities. EU citizens should also have equal treatment with US citizens regarding the enforceability of their rights, including judicial redress.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005492/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Recupero degli spazi verdi nelle aree urbane

Diverse città italiane contano numerosi spazi verdi, concepiti per essere destinati alla ricreazione della cittadinanza. Sfortunatamente queste aree verdi sono spesso trascurate e lasciate in uno stato di abbandono che spesso risulta in accumuli di rifiuti di ogni tipo, da resti di materiale edile a copertoni abbandonati, carcasse di automobili e così via. Questa situazione conduce a molteplici conseguenze negative, come il degrado urbano, l'inquinamento, lo spreco di risorse naturali, turistiche ed economiche, anche se non esiste una stima precisa. Queste aree potrebbero essere sfruttate per essere attrezzate con aree ristoro, aree fitness, servizi per i turisti o altre soluzioni alternative che, oltre a ripristinare il decoro urbano, permetterebbero lo sviluppo di nuove attività economiche.

Può la Commissione chiarire:

1. quali siano i fondi europei destinati a questo tipo di attività di recupero degli spazi verdi nelle aree urbane?
2. se esistano progetti pilota implementati nell'UE che possano rappresentare un esempio di best practice?

**Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione**

(27 giugno 2014)

Per il periodo 2007-2013 il Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale (FESR) ha potuto finanziare strategie di sviluppo urbano sostenibile che comprendessero, tra l'altro, il recupero degli spazi verdi nelle aree urbane.

Per quanto concerne il periodo 2014-2020, almeno il 5 % delle risorse nazionali a valere sul FESR devono essere dedicate ad azioni integrate per lo sviluppo urbano sostenibile che potrebbero anche comportare progetti ambientali. I principi per la selezione delle aree urbane e l'importo indicativo da stanziare per le azioni in questione devono essere stabiliti dagli Stati membri nei loro accordi di partenariato. Le discussioni nel merito tra la Commissione e gli Stati membri sono ancora in corso.

La Commissione ha pubblicato lo studio «Urban development in the EU»<sup>(1)</sup>. Esso presenta 50 progetti che hanno ricevuto un investimento dal FESR e offre esempi di buone pratiche in città selezionate riportando informazioni dettagliate sui progetti e sui loro risultati.

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(1) [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/50\\_projects/urban\\_dev\\_erdf50.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/50_projects/urban_dev_erdf50.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005492/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Regeneration of green spaces in urban areas

Many Italian cities have a large number of green spaces, which were intended to be used for recreational purposes. Unfortunately, these green spaces are often neglected and in a state of disrepair, and are often full of rubbish of all kinds, from leftover building materials to tyres, burnt-out cars, etc. This has numerous negative effects, including urban decay, pollution and wastage of natural, tourist and financial resources, although there are no accurate statistics as to the extent of such effects. These areas could be regenerated to accommodate areas for relaxation, fitness, tourist services or other solutions which, as well as revitalising our cities, would allow new businesses to be established.

Can the Commission clarify:

1. what European funding is available for this type of regeneration of green spaces in urban areas?
2. whether there are any pilot projects within the EU which could be held up as examples of best practice?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission**

(27 June 2014)

For the 2007-2013 period, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) could co-finance sustainable urban development strategies that can include, *inter alia*, the regeneration of green spaces in urban areas.

With respect to the 2014-2020 period, at least 5% of the ERDF national resources need to be dedicated to integrated actions for sustainable urban development that could also include environmental projects. The principles for the selection of the urban areas and an indicative allocation for the actions envisaged need to be established by the Member States in their partnership agreements. The discussions between the Commission and the Member States in this respect are still on-going.

The Commission published a study 'Urban development in the EU' <sup>(1)</sup>. It presents 50 projects which received ERDF investment and offers examples of good practice from selected cities, with detailed information on projects and results.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/50\\_projects/urban\\_dev\\_erdf50.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/50_projects/urban_dev_erdf50.pdf)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005493/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Sharka, il nuovo virus delle drupacee

Il settore frutticolo della Basilicata si trova ad affrontare un grave problema, relativo all'epidemia di sharka, virus letale che colpisce le drupacee, ovvero piante da susino, albicocco e pesco. Il virus, oltre a deteriorare il frutto sino ad impedirne la commercializzazione, causa il deperimento della pianta e, non raramente, la sua morte. Relativamente a quella che si prospetta come una grave perdita per il comparto in questione, sono state diramate linee guida, da enti competenti, finalizzate alla divulgazione di strategie di contenimento del fenomeno, dei suoi effetti nocivi. In particolare, si invitano i produttori a un monitoraggio stringente delle coltivazioni e alla selezione accurata degli innesti provenienti da vivaio.

Alla luce di quanto illustrato, può la Commissione:

1. fornire informazioni in merito al proliferare della medesima infezione in altre aree europee, con particolare riferimento alle misure adottate;
2. fornire informazioni in merito alle stime delle eventuali perdite economiche legate al virus;
3. indicare eventuali misure che l'Ue abbia adottato o intenda adottare per fronteggiare l'epidemia di cui sopra?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(12 giugno 2014)

Nell'Unione europea (UE) il virus della vaiolatura delle drupacee, agente causale della malattia Sharka che colpisce le drupacee, è disciplinato come organismo nocivo da quarantena. Esso è compreso nella direttiva fitosanitaria dell'UE <sup>(1)</sup> come organismo nocivo la cui presenza è stata rilevata nell'Unione e la cui introduzione e diffusione in tutti gli Stati membri è vietata qualora venga individuato su determinate piante. Inoltre, tali piante devono rispettare prescrizioni particolari prima di poter essere introdotte o spostate all'interno dell'Unione, al fine di garantire che siano indenni da tale organismo nocivo. Ogni Stato membro è tenuto a comunicare immediatamente alla Commissione e agli altri Stati membri la comparsa del virus in una parte del suo territorio in cui tale presenza non era stata ancora riscontrata, nonché a prendere tutte le misure necessarie per l'eradicazione del focolaio della malattia. Dalle informazioni fornite dall'Organizzazione europea e mediterranea per la protezione delle piante, disponibili tramite la sua banca dati mondiale <sup>(2)</sup>, emerge che il virus della vaiolatura delle drupacee è presente in 22 Stati membri.

Una recente analisi del rischio fitosanitario nell'UE per il virus della vaiolatura della drupacee effettuata dai Paesi Bassi <sup>(3)</sup> rileva che tale organismo nocivo ha un elevato impatto economico sulla produzione di drupacee.

L'attuale regolamentazione dell'UE per il virus della vaiolatura delle drupacee come organismo nocivo da quarantena è volta a limitarne l'effetto all'interno dell'Unione. Tuttavia l'attuale approccio normativo dell'UE contro questo organismo nocivo, essendo in vigore da tempo, è al momento in fase di valutazione per tener conto dell'attuale situazione del virus all'interno dell'UE. Per tale valutazione viene utilizzata come base l'analisi del rischio fitosanitario di cui sopra.

<sup>(1)</sup> Direttiva 2000/29/CE del Consiglio, dell'8 maggio 2000, concernente le misure di protezione contro l'introduzione nella Comunità di organismi nocivi ai vegetali o ai prodotti vegetali e contro la loro diffusione nella Comunità (GU L 169 del 10.7.2000, pag. 1).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://gd.eppo.int/>

<sup>(3)</sup> Pest Risk Analysis for Plum pox virus (Analisi del rischio sanitario per il virus della vaiolatura delle drupacee), Servizio fitosanitario del Ministero degli Affari economici, dell'Agricoltura e dell'Innovazione dei Paesi Bassi, agosto 2011, <http://www.vwa.nl/actueel/bestanden/bestand/2200736>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005493/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Sharka, the new pome fruit virus

The fruit-growing sector in the Basilicata region is faced with a serious problem in the form of an epidemic of the lethal sharka virus, which affects pome fruit, i.e. plums, apricots and peaches. As well as causing the fruit to decay to such an extent that it can no longer be sold, the virus causes the plant to wither and, not uncommonly, to die. In the face of what is expected to be a crisis for the sector in question, guidelines have been issued by the competent authorities in an effort to disseminate strategies for containing the phenomenon and to indicate the damage it causes. Producers are being asked in particular to monitor their crops carefully and to take care when selecting grafts from nursery stock.

In this context, can the Commission:

1. provide information concerning the prevalence of said infection in other areas of Europe, with particular reference to the action taken?
2. provide estimates of the potential financial losses associated with the virus?
3. provide details of any action which the EU has taken or intends to take to counter the abovementioned epidemic?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(12 June 2014)

Plum pox virus, the causal agent of the stone fruit disease sharka, is regulated as a quarantine pest in the European Union (EU). It is listed in the EU plant health Directive <sup>(1)</sup> as a pest known to occur in the Union, the introduction of which into, and spread within, all Member States is banned if it is found on certain plants. In addition, those plants need to fulfil special requirements before they can be introduced into, or moved within, the Union to make sure that they are free of this pest. Each Member State is required to notify immediately the Commission and the other Member States of the appearance of plum pox virus in a part of its territory in which its presence was previously unknown, as well as to take any necessary measures to eradicate the outbreak. Information from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation, available through the EPPO Global Database <sup>(2)</sup>, shows that plum pox virus is present in 22 Member States.

A recent EU Pest Risk Analysis for plum pox virus prepared by the Netherlands <sup>(3)</sup> reports a high economic impact of this pest on stone fruit production.

The current EU regulation of plum pox virus as a quarantine pest aims at limiting the impact of this pest in the Union. However, since the current EU regulatory approach against this pest has been in place for a long time, this approach is currently being evaluated, to take into account the present situation of this pest in the EU. The Pest Risk Analysis mentioned above is used as the technical basis for this evaluation.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8.5.2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, p.1.

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://gd.eppo.int/>

<sup>(3)</sup> Pest Risk Analysis for Plum pox virus, Plant Protection Service, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands, August 2011, <http://www.vwa.nl/actueel/bestanden/bestand/2200736>



*(Versione italiana)*

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005494/14  
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

*(24 aprile 2014)*

Oggetto: VP/HR — Incidenti alla spianata delle Moschee

Nella mattinata del 16 Aprile c.a., in seguito all'irruzione di alcune decine di palestinesi, la spianata delle Moschee è stata chiusa ai visitatori. I palestinesi di cui sopra hanno lanciato pietre e petardi contro le forze di sicurezza.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione fornire informazioni in merito alle dinamiche dei disordini e all'eventuale presenza di cittadini europei fra i visitatori della spianata (specie in riferimento a possibili ferimenti occorsi)?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

*(24 giugno 2014)*

L'Unione europea ha seguito da vicino gli eventi del 16 aprile 2014.

In base alle informazioni pervenuteci, non risulta che alcun cittadino dell'UE sia rimasto ferito nei disordini avvenuti sulla spianata delle Moschee.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005494/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Incidents on the Temple Mount

On the morning of 16 April 2004, following the invasion of dozens of Palestinians, the Temple Mount was closed to visitors. The Palestinians threw stones and firecrackers at the security forces.

In light of the above, can the Vice-President/High Representative provide information on the dynamics of the unrest and say whether any European citizens were among the visitors at the Temple Mount at the time (especially if any were injured)?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(24 June 2014)

The EU has followed closely the events of 16 April 2014.

The EU has not received any reports that any EU citizens were hurt in the incidents on the Haram-Al-Sharif/Temple Mount.

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*(Versione italiana)*

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005495/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Incidente ferroviario in India

Il deragliamento di un treno nella regione settentrionale di Assam, in India, ha causato il ferimento di cinquanta passeggeri, di cui diciassette gravi.

Le cause dell'incidente (16 aprile 2014) sono tuttora sconosciute. I primi soccorsi hanno provveduto ad assicurare le prime cure a vittime e passeggeri.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione fornire informazioni in merito alle dinamiche dell'incidente e riguardo alla presenza di cittadini europei fra i passeggeri del treno?

**Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione  
(5 giugno 2014)**

La Commissione è a conoscenza dello sfortunato incidente ferroviario su cui l'onorevole parlamentare chiede chiarimenti. Il SEAE non dispone di ulteriori informazioni oltre a quelle disponibili attraverso le fonti di stampa.

La delegazione dell'UE in India non è stata informata dell'eventuale coinvolgimento di cittadini dell'UE nell'incidente. In ogni caso tutti gli Stati membri dell'UE hanno una rappresentanza diplomatica in India e sarebbero eventualmente intervenuti per garantire assistenza consolare ai propri cittadini in difficoltà.

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*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-005495/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

*(24 April 2014)*

*Subject:* Railway accident in India

The derailment of a train in the northern region of Assam, in India, has led to around 50 passengers being injured, 17 of whom seriously.

The causes of the accident (on 16 April 2014) are as yet unknown. The emergency and rescue services provided first aid to victims and passengers.

Can the Commission provide any information on the dynamics of the accident and whether any EU citizens were among the passengers on the train?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

*(5 June 2014)*

The Commission is aware of the unfortunate railway accident about which the Honourable Member inquires. The EEAS has no further information beyond that available through press sources.

The EU Delegation in India has not been informed of any EU citizen being involved. In any case all EU Member States have a diplomatic mission in India and would have ensured consular assistance to their citizens in distress.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005497/14  
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Nigeria: oltre cento studentesse rapite

Una notizia recente riferisce del rapimento di oltre cento studentesse in Nigeria. Le milizie fondamentaliste, irrompendo nella struttura scolastica, hanno avuto la meglio sui militari dispiegati a tutela della stessa. Nella mattinata erano in corso gli esami di stato. Gli istituti scolastici continuano a essere uno dei bersagli privilegiati dalla fazione terroristica (sia in relazione alla loro vulnerabilità che in merito ai principi democratici che rappresentano).

In seguito a quanto sopra, può il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante:

1. fornire notizie approfondite in merito a ulteriori rapimenti compiuti per mano di Boko Haram, e a eventuali richieste di riscatto?
2. informare in merito all'eventuale presenza di civili europei fra gli ostaggi e fra le vittime?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione**

(19 giugno 2014)

L'Unione europea condanna fermamente il rapimento di più di 200 studentesse nello Stato nordorientale del Borno e ne ha chiesto il rilascio immediato e incondizionato.

Il 14 aprile si è verificato un rapimento a Chibok, nel quale sono state sequestrate oltre 200 studentesse, e il 6 maggio ha avuto luogo un secondo rapimento nel villaggio di Warabe, in cui sono state rapite altre 11 ragazze.

Come riportato dai mezzi di comunicazione, Boko Haram — che ha rivendicato i rapimenti — intende scambiare le ragazze rapite contro alcuni ribelli appartenenti al gruppo catturati dalle forze armate nigeriane.

Come dichiarato dal Consiglio, l'UE appoggia l'intenzione del Consiglio di sicurezza dell'ONU di valutare misure appropriate da prendere nei confronti di Boko Haram, misure infine adottate il 22 maggio.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005497/14  
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* VP/HR — Nigeria — over 100 female students abducted

According to recent news reports, more than 100 female students have been abducted in Nigeria. The fundamentalist militias forced their way into the girls' school, getting the better of the soldiers deployed to protect it. That morning state exams were being taken. Schools continue to be one of the prime targets of the terrorist faction (with regard to both their vulnerability and the democratic principles they represent).

Can the High Representative/Vice-President therefore:

1. provide detailed news about any further abductions carried out by Boko Haram, and any ransom demands;
2. provide information on the possible presence of European civilians among the hostages and victims?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(19 June 2014)

The European Union strongly condemns the abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls in the north eastern state of Borno and has called for their immediate and unconditional release.

There was one abduction in Chibok on 14 April where more than 200 school girls got kidnapped and a second, so far, on 6 May where another 11 girls were abducted from the village of Warabe.

As stated in media reports, Boko Haram — who has claimed responsibility for the abductions — wants to exchange the abducted girls against Boko Haram insurgents captured by the Nigerian military.

As expressed by the Council, the EU supports the intention of the UN Security Council to consider appropriate measures against Boko Haram as it finally happened on 22 May.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005498/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Rifornimento delle falde acquifere: un progetto pilota

Un progetto pilota implementato in Emilia Romagna provvede a dar corso a strategie atte a favorire la ricarica artificiale delle falde acquifere in siti che risentono di un penalizzante assetto idrogeologico.

Nello specifico, il sistema messo a punto ovvia ad un problema di dispersione delle acque piovane attraverso il percorso dei fiumi, sino ai bacini marittimi. Inoltre, il progetto mira a dotare le zone interessate di efficienti strutture di gestione delle scorte idriche in tal modo immagazzinate.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione se può:

1. fornire informazioni in ordine all'implementazione di progetti analoghi in Europa?
2. fornire informazioni approfondite in merito ai risultati scaturiti dai progetti summenzionati e in ordine al loro grado di trasferibilità in altri contesti europei che presentino problematiche simili?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

(13 giugno 2014)

La ricarica artificiale delle falde acquifere è praticata in tutto il mondo — anche in diversi Stati membri — per diversi scopi. Tuttavia, la Commissione non dispone di informazioni sulla realizzazione o sui risultati di specifici progetti analoghi a quello descritto nell'interrogazione.

Il rifornimento delle falde viene discusso in diversi forum, come ad esempio l'Associazione internazionale degli idrogeologi <sup>(1)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://recharge.iah.org/recharge/symposia.htm>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005498/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Pilot project for the replenishment of aquifers

A pilot project in Emilia Romagna is paving the way for the artificial replenishment of aquifers in areas with an unfavourable hydrogeological structure.

The system has been developed to tackle the problem of loss of rainwater from the land as it flows, via rivers, to the sea. The project aims to equip the affected areas with efficient structures for managing water supplies stored in aquifers.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. provide information regarding the implementation of similar projects in Europe?
2. provide in-depth information on the results of the above projects and in terms of their degree of transferability to other parts of Europe which have similar problems?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(13 June 2014)

The managed recharge of aquifers is practised throughout the world including several Member States for different purposes but the Commission does not have information on the implementation or results of specific projects similar to the one described in the question.

This practice is discussed in several fora, for example in the International Association of Hydrogeologists <sup>(1)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://recharge.iah.org/recharge/symposia.htm>



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005499/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Visite mediche su Skype per pazienti con difficoltà motorie

Un buon esempio di impiego delle nuove tecnologie al servizio dei cittadini è offerto dalla Gran Bretagna, che si dota delle potenzialità di Skype per facilitare l'accesso a visite ambulatoriali.

I medici di base potranno offrire le loro prestazioni on line raggiungendo soprattutto quegli assistiti che presentano maggiori problemi di mobilità. A quanto detto si aggiunge anche il fatto che gli orari di accesso alle unità ambulatoriali verranno estesi sino a sera inoltrata. In tal modo si permette ai lavoratori di poter consultare il proprio medico generico. Ovviamente questa non è comunque una soluzione definitiva al problema dell'accessibilità dei servizi sanitari per le persone a ridotta mobilità.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. se esista una normativa europea in tema di garanzia dei diritti delle persone affette da disabilità motoria in relazione alle possibilità di accesso a luoghi e servizi pubblici;
2. se sia in grado di fornire dati sui feedback provenienti dai pazienti in merito a esperimenti come quello descritto nel testo.

**Risposta di Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione**

(17 giugno 2014)

L'uguaglianza e la non discriminazione, segnatamente in materia di accesso ai servizi, sono principi sanciti dalla Convenzione delle Nazioni Unite sui diritti delle persone con disabilità, di cui l'Unione europea è parte assieme alla grande maggioranza degli Stati membri.

Attualmente non esiste una normativa dell'Unione che riconosce il diritto delle persone con disabilità di essere in grado di accedere ai luoghi pubblici o ai servizi in generale.

Il principio della parità di trattamento e di non discriminazione per motivi di disabilità è sempre più integrato nel diritto derivato dell'Unione. Ad esempio, il regolamento relativo ai diritti dei passeggeri che viaggiano via mare e per vie navigabili interne <sup>(1)</sup> impone ai vettori e agli operatori dei terminali di stabilire o predisporre condizioni d'accesso non discriminatorie per il trasporto delle persone con disabilità e delle persone a mobilità ridotta.

La proposta di direttiva relativa all'accessibilità dei siti web degli enti pubblici <sup>(2)</sup> mira a facilitare l'accesso ai servizi pubblici.

Il progetto «Chain of Trust», nell'ambito del programma di sanità pubblica dell'UE, ha specificamente esaminato l'ottica di pazienti e operatori sanitari sui servizi di telemedicina e ha concluso che in generale entrambi sono molto inclini a usarla. La raccomandazione principale del progetto è che l'UE punti a rendere gli strumenti di assistenza sanitaria online più efficaci e più facili da usare, coinvolgendo i professionisti e i pazienti nelle scelte strategiche, nella progettazione e nell'attuazione.

<sup>(1)</sup> Regolamento (UE) n. 1177/2010, GU L 334/16, articolo 9, paragrafo 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(2012) 721 del 3.12.2012.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005499/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Medical appointments via Skype for patients with motor difficulties

A good example of how new technologies can be used to benefit people is provided by the United Kingdom, which uses the potential of Skype to facilitate access to doctor's appointments.

GPs can offer their services on line, thereby reaching primarily those patients with major mobility problems. In addition, health centres are extending their opening hours until well into the evening. That will enable people who work to see their own GPs, although of course it does not really solve the problem of access to the health services that people with reduced mobility face.

1. Can the Commission say whether there is European legislation that guarantees the rights of people with motor disabilities to be able to access public places and services?
2. Can it supply information on patient feedback on experiments such as that described above?

**Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission**

(17 June 2014)

Equality and non-discrimination, namely in the area of access to services, is an area of focus in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the EU is a party, together with the great majority of Member States.

At present, there is no EU legislation providing for the right of people with disabilities to be able to access public places, or services in general.

The principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination on the grounds of disability is increasingly mainstreamed in EU secondary legislation. For example, the regulation concerning the rights of passengers travelling by sea and inland waterways <sup>(1)</sup> requires carriers and terminal operators to establish, or have in place, non-discriminatory access conditions for disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility.

The proposed Directive on the accessibility of public sector bodies' websites <sup>(2)</sup> aims at facilitating the access to public services.

The Chain of Trust project under the EU Public Health Programme specifically looked at the patients' and health professionals' perspective on telehealth services and concluded that they are generally quite willing to use them. The main recommendation of the project is that the EU should aim to make eHealth tools more effective and user-friendly by involving professionals and patients in strategy, design and implementation.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1177/2010, OJ L 334/16, Article 9(1).

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(2012) 721 of 3.12.2012.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005500/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Smaltimento dei Raee

Le lampadine a basso consumo rappresentano un importante strumento riguardo alle strategie di contenimento dei consumi e di ricerca di soluzioni energetiche a basso impatto ambientale. Allo stesso tempo, però, appare altrettanto importante garantire un adeguato sistema di smaltimento dei Raee, altrimenti nocivi per i contesti ambientali. In Italia, le maggiori associazioni ambientaliste si impegnano per socializzare atteggiamenti eco-compatibili fra i cittadini, anche nei riguardi dello smaltimento delle lampadine di cui sopra, attraverso giornate espressamente dedicate.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione fornire informazioni in merito ai livelli di smaltimento, riciclaggio dei Raee nei paesi europei, specie in rapporto alle strutture predisposte per il conferimento e gestione di tale tipo di rifiuti?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

(5 giugno 2014)

La raccolta, il trattamento e il recupero dei RAEE nell'UE sono disciplinati dalla direttiva 2012/19/UE <sup>(1)</sup> sui rifiuti di apparecchiature elettriche ed elettroniche (RAEE). La direttiva prescrive agli Stati membri di adottare misure al fine di raggiungere un elevato livello di raccolta differenziata dei RAEE, ridurre al minimo lo smaltimento dei RAEE sotto forma di rifiuti urbani misti e assicurare il loro adeguato trattamento. Essa definisce inoltre obiettivi specifici per la raccolta, il recupero e il riciclaggio dei RAEE e obblighi specifici per gli operatori coinvolti (produttori e distributori di AEE). Su questa base, negli Stati membri sono già stati predisposti vari sistemi di raccolta dei RAEE. Gli Stati membri sono tenuti a riferire alla Commissione sulla realizzazione degli obiettivi <sup>(2)</sup> e tali informazioni sono reperibili nel sito web di Eurostat <sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> GUL 197 del 24.7.2012.

<sup>(2)</sup> Per maggiori dettagli sugli obblighi di comunicazione nell'ambito della direttiva RAEE, cfr. la decisione n. 2004/249/CE della Commissione (GU L 78 del 16.3.2004).

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/key\\_waste\\_streams/waste\\_electrical\\_electronic\\_equipment\\_weee](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/key_waste_streams/waste_electrical_electronic_equipment_weee)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005500/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Disposal of WEEE

Low-energy light bulbs are an important part of strategies to reduce energy consumption and impact on the environment. At the same time, however, it is crucial to ensure that an effective system exists for the disposal of WEEE, which would otherwise be harmful to the environment. In Italy, the big environmental organisations are organising dedicated recycling days for the disposal, amongst other things, of the abovementioned bulbs, to encourage people to adopt a more eco-friendly approach.

In this context, would the Commission provide details of the levels of disposal/recycling of WEEE in European countries, with particular regard to the structures established for the collection and management of this type of waste?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(5 June 2014)

The collection, treatment and recovery of WEEE in the EU is regulated through Directive 2012/19/EU <sup>(1)</sup> on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). The directive requires Member States to take measures in order to achieve a high level of separate collection of WEEE, minimise the disposal of WEEE in the form of unsorted waste and ensure proper treatment. It also sets specific targets for the collection, recovery and recycling of WEEE and specific obligations for the actors involved (e.g. producers, distributors of EEE). On this basis, many different WEEE collection schemes have already been put in place in the Member States. Member States are obliged to report to the Commission on the achievement of the targets <sup>(2)</sup> and this information is available on the Eurostat website <sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 197, 24.7.2012.

<sup>(2)</sup> See for more details on reporting requirements under the WEEE Directive the Commission Decision 2004/249/EC (OJ L 78, 16.3.2004).

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/key\\_waste\\_streams/waste\\_electrical\\_electronic\\_equipment\\_weee](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/waste/key_waste_streams/waste_electrical_electronic_equipment_weee)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005501/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Biostuoie di posidonia

Secondo un progetto dell'Enea, le biomasse di posidonia che invadono le spiagge del Mediterraneo possono essere riutilizzate per realizzare materassini biologici, con i quali coprire determinati camminamenti sui tratti costieri rocciosi e favorire la preservazione delle coste dall'azione erosiva delle onde.

Inoltre, tali stuoie favorirebbero la ricolonizzazione della specie vegetale in questione sui fondali marini, attraverso la loro collocazione sui fondali a una profondità di 10 metri.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione:

1. far sapere se ritiene che questo genere di azioni non rischi di provocare alterazioni dell'ambiente marino e costiero;
2. indicare se è a conoscenza di progetti simili a quello descritto già implementati in altri Stati membri e fornire informazioni riguardo agli eventuali risultati dell'implementazione?

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005516/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Erosione costiera: un progetto

Al fine di preservare le fasce costiere dall'erosione, due studiosi italiani hanno messo a punto un progetto, che si dimostra tanto semplice quanto verosimilmente efficace. Esso prevede l'installazione di un sistema di reti di materiale biologico sul fondale marino, sul quale andrebbero a insediarsi e agganciarsi delle cozze, costituendo man mano dei veri e propri allevamenti. Questi ultimi agirebbero da barriera nei confronti delle onde facendo perdere potenza alle stesse — che arriverebbero sulla costa ormai scariche.

Inoltre, gli allevamenti dei mitili potrebbero essere sfruttati anche per fini commerciali, quale filiera mare-terra, creando ulteriori posti di lavoro.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. di indicare le strategie adottate in Europa al fine di preservare le coste dall'azione erosiva del mare;
2. se sia a conoscenza di studi in merito al rischio di erosione delle coste europee, che ne mettano in evidenza i principali rischi e le possibili contromisure.

**Risposta congiunta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

(24 giugno 2014)

Esistono diversi metodi per proteggere le coste europee dall'erosione, che vanno dalle opere rigide di ingegneria ai progetti di riallineamento controllato. La politica dell'UE include numerose strategie e politiche, come ad esempio la strategia per la protezione del suolo o la futura direttiva per la pianificazione dello spazio marittimo, ma spetta agli Stati membri determinare quelle più appropriate a soddisfare i loro interessi. Le azioni nazionali, pertanto, possono includere vari elementi, a seconda della natura della costa in questione.

La Commissione rinvia l'onorevole deputato alla risposta all'interrogazione scritta E-006371/2013 per le informazioni sugli studi relativi all'erosione delle coste e all'interrogazione scritta E-004290/2013 per i dettagli riguardanti altre azioni in corso per la protezione delle coste dall'erosione. Ai sensi del quadro giuridico dell'UE in materia di protezione degli ecosistemi terrestri e acquatici, spetta allo Stato membro valutare se un progetto specifico inteso a lottare contro l'erosione delle coste possa causare un danno all'ambiente marino e costiero.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005501/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Seagrass biomass

The seagrass biomass that is invading the beaches of the Mediterranean could be recycled to make organic mats, which could be used to cover some rocky coastal paths and help prevent coastal erosion, it has emerged from a project by Enea (the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development).

These mats would also promote re-colonisation of the seabed by the plant species in question, by placing them on the seabed at a depth of 10 metres.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. Confirm that, in its opinion, such action is not likely to cause any damage to the marine and coastal environment?
2. State whether it is aware of projects similar to the above which are already underway in other Member States and provide information regarding the possible outcome of the project?

**Question for written answer E-005516/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Tackling coastal erosion

Two Italian researchers have developed a project to tackle the problem of coastal erosion, which appears to be simple yet potentially extremely effective. The project involves laying networks of biological material on the seabed. Mussels settle and attach themselves to this material, gradually creating mussel 'farms'. These farms act as a barrier, taking the sting out of the waves, which are thus much less powerful by the time they break on shore.

The mussel farms could also be exploited commercially, a sort of sea/shore industry, creating more jobs.

In light of the above, can the Commission:

1. describe the strategies adopted in Europe to preserve the coast from erosion by the sea?
2. state whether it is aware of any studies on the problem of coastal erosion in Europe, which highlight the main risks and possible countermeasures?

**Joint answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(24 June 2014)

There is a range of approaches to protect European coastlines from erosion, from hard engineering structures to managed realignment projects. EU policy includes many strategies and policy drivers, from the Soil Strategy to the forthcoming Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, but it is up to Member States to determine what is most appropriate for their interests. National actions, therefore, may encompass many different elements, depending on the nature of the coast in question.

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-006371/2013 for information on studies relating to coastal erosion and also to Written Question E-004290/2013 for details of other on-going actions to protect coasts against erosion. Within the EU legal framework to protect terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, it is up to the Member State to consider whether a specific project addressing coastal erosion would cause damage to its marine and coastal environment.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005502/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Consapevolezza e benessere sessuale

La decisione adottata da una delle principali associazioni mediche italiane, relativa all'introduzione del tema della salute sessuale nel check-up del medico di famiglia, pare particolarmente pertinente se si considerano i dati relativi al fai-da-te online, al quale fanno ricorso alcuni milioni di italiani, per curarsi. Nello specifico, i trattamenti e i medicinali segnalati e venduti in rete — per ovviare a piccoli o importanti disagi sessuali — sarebbero poco raccomandabili. Peraltro, gli stessi problemi di natura sessuale potrebbero, verosimilmente, costituire la punta dell'iceberg di altre patologie soggiacenti (vedi diabete, malattie cardiovascolari, depressione ecc.).

Di conseguenza, attraverso un'adeguata formazione degli operatori medici — relativa all'approccio empatico da instaurare con i propri assistiti — si ritiene di poter approntare efficacemente e senza reciproci imbarazzi tale forma di assistenza.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. se dispone di dati in merito all'utilizzo di soluzioni fai-da-te online per la cura di lievi problemi di salute da parte dei cittadini europei;
2. quali siano le principali iniziative adottate a livello europeo per favorire la consapevolezza e il benessere sessuale dei cittadini europei.

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(11 giugno 2014)

La Commissione europea non raccoglie dati sulle soluzioni «fai da te» per il trattamento di piccoli disturbi sanitari.

La risoluzione del Parlamento europeo sulla salute e i diritti sessuali e riproduttivi, del 4 dicembre 2013 <sup>(1)</sup>, nota che l'elaborazione e l'attuazione di politiche in materia di salute e diritti sessuali e riproduttivi e di educazione sessuale nelle scuole è di competenza degli Stati membri.

La risoluzione menziona anche il fatto che l'UE può contribuire alla promozione di pratiche ottimali tra gli Stati membri. Il programma unionale Salute <sup>(2)</sup> fornisce sostegno agli Stati membri in tale ambito attraverso progetti relativi all'informazione sulla salute sessuale e riproduttiva <sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> A7-0426/2013, Relazione dell'Onorevole Edite Estrela — «Salute e diritti sessuali e riproduttivi», 2013/2040(INI).

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2008-2013/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2008-2013/index_en.htm)

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/projects/database.html?prjno=20091217>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005502/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Sexual health and awareness

The decision taken by one of the leading Italian medical associations to include sexual health as one of the areas covered in GP check-ups seems particularly relevant at a time when millions of Italians are turning to the Internet for medical advice in an attempt at self-treatment. Using treatments and medicines described and sold online to treat sexual disorders and diseases, whether major or minor, is not recommended. Moreover, problems of a sexual nature could actually be the tip of the iceberg, symptomatic of other, underlying diseases (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression, etc.).

Thus it is hoped that proper training for medical personnel, in terms of the empathetic approach to be taken with a patient, could see this type of assistance provided effectively and without embarrassment for either party.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. State whether it has data on the use, by the public in Europe, of online DIY solutions for treating minor health problems?
2. Indicate the main initiatives taken at European level to promote sexual health and awareness among the people of Europe?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(11 June 2014)

The European Commission does not collect data on Do It Yourself solutions for treating minor health problems.

The European Parliament Resolution on sexual and reproductive health and rights of 4 December 2013 <sup>(1)</sup> notes that 'the formulation and implementation of policies on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and on sexual education in schools is a competence of the Member States'.

The Resolution also states that the EU can contribute to the promotion of best practices among Member States. The EU Health Programme <sup>(2)</sup> provides support to Member States in this regard through projects in the area of information on sexual and reproductive health <sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> A7-0426/2013, Report MEP Edite Estrela — 'Sexual and reproductive health and rights', 2013/2040(INI).

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2008-2013/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2008-2013/index_en.htm)

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/projects/database.html?prjno=20091217>



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005503/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Decodifica genica per invertire l'evoluzione delle cellule cancerose

Gli studi di un'importante università americana hanno condotto alla messa a punto di un sofisticato metodo computazionale, capace di rintracciare i reticoli genici e di individuare i singoli geni coinvolti nella progressione dei tumori. In particolare, sono stati rintracciati sei geni sospetti, che mostravano attività insolita poco prima dell'attaccamento del tumore, riprodotto in laboratorio. Uno in particolare, l'HoxA1, pare essere statisticamente correlato al tumore mammario.

Di conseguenza, tali scoperte permetterebbero di agire direttamente sulle reti geniche bloccando l'attività del gene disfunzionale e invertendo l'evoluzione delle cellule, sino a riequilibrarla. In tal modo, non si lederebbero i tessuti sani; il trattamento sarebbe non invasivo, e la stessa metodica potrebbe essere estesa anche ad altri tipi di tumori.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. È a conoscenza dello studio?
2. Può fornire dati statistici relativi all'incidenza del cancro al seno?
3. Può indicare eventuali finanziamenti stanziati dall'UE per sostenere la ricerca sul cancro (in particolare per quanto riguarda il carcinoma mammario)?

**Risposta di Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione  
(13 giugno 2014)**

1. La Commissione è a conoscenza dello studio citato dall'onorevole parlamentare, pubblicato sulla rivista scientifica *Science Translational Medicine* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>.
2. Nel 2012 sono stati registrati 364.449 nuovi casi di cancro al seno nell'Unione europea <sup>(3)</sup>. Espressa in tasso standardizzato per età per 100.000, la maggiore incidenza di cancro al seno si osserva in Belgio (147,5), Danimarca (142,5), Paesi Bassi (131,3) e Regno Unito (129,2).
3. Con il Settimo programma quadro per le attività di ricerca, sviluppo tecnologico e dimostrazione (7° PQ, 2007-2013), la Commissione ha stanziato 159 milioni di euro per sostenere la ricerca collaborativa e di frontiera sul cancro al seno, in particolare per quanto riguarda la diagnosi precoce, i meccanismi di resistenza e i nuovi trattamenti.

Orizzonte 2020, il programma quadro per la ricerca e l'innovazione (2014-2020) <sup>(4)</sup>, offre altre possibilità per sostenere la ricerca sul cancro al seno, grazie al finanziamento destinato all'obiettivo «Salute, cambiamento demografico e benessere», contenuto nella priorità «Sfide per la società». Per maggiori informazioni consultare il portale dei partecipanti Ricerca e innovazione <sup>(5)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/6/217/217ra2.short>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://wyss.harvard.edu/viewpressrelease/135/novel-noninvasive-therapy-prevents-breast-cancer-formation-in-mice>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eco.iarc.fr/EUCAN/CancerOne.aspx?Cancer=46&Gender=2>

<sup>(4)</sup> COM(2011) 809 del 30/11/2014.

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005503/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Genetic decoding to reverse the development of cancer cells

Research conducted by a major American university has led to the development of a sophisticated computational method, capable of tracing genetic grids and identifying the individual genes involved in the growth of tumours. In particular, six suspect genes have been traced, which exhibit unusual activity just before the emergence of a tumour, reproduced in the laboratory. One in particular, HOXA1, seems to be statistically connected to breast tumours.

These discoveries might therefore make it possible to work directly on genetic networks, blocking the activity of the dysfunctional gene and reversing the development of the cells, until the correct balance has been restored. This means that healthy tissue would not be damaged, and treatment would be non-invasive; it might also be possible to use the same method to treat other types of tumour.

Can the Commission answer the following questions in the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this research?
2. Can the Commission provide any statistical data on the incidence of breast cancer?
3. Can the Commission say whether any funding has been set aside by the EU to support cancer research (particularly as regards breast cancer)?

**Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission**

(13 June 2014)

1. The Commission is aware of the study referred to by the Honourable Member, which was published in the scientific journal *Science Translational Medicine* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>.
2. In 2012, there were 364 449 new cases of breast cancer in the European Union <sup>(3)</sup>. Expressed in Age Standardised Rate per 100 000, the highest incidences of breast cancer are observed in Belgium (147.5), Denmark (142.5), The Netherlands (131.3), and the United Kingdom (129.2).
3. Through the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013), the Commission provided EUR 159 million in support of frontier and collaborative breast cancer research on early diagnosis, resistance mechanisms and novel treatments.

Horizon 2020, the framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) <sup>(4)</sup>, offers further opportunities to support research on breast cancer through the 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing' societal challenge. More information can be obtained through the Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(5)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/6/217/217ra2.short>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://wyss.harvard.edu/viewpressrelease/135/novel-noninvasive-therapy-prevents-breast-cancer-formation-in-mice>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eco.iarc.fr/EUCAN/CancerOne.aspx?Cancer=46&Gender=2>

<sup>(4)</sup> COM(2011)809, 30.11.2014.

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005504/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Visibilità delle patologie epatiche

Secondo alcune stime, le malattie legate al fegato, e in particolare la cirrosi epatica, costituiscono un alto costo in termini di sofferenza umana, in termini di assistenza sanitaria e ospedaliera, così come in termini di perdita di forza produttiva. Attualmente, la cirrosi epatica rientra fra le dieci principali cause di morte nelle società occidentali; ciononostante, tale malattia non ha una particolare visibilità. Recentemente, inoltre, alcuni studi hanno mostrato come certe predisposizioni genetiche, unite a uno stile di vita poco salutare, possano contribuire a favorire lo sviluppo di patologie epatiche nei minori.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. di fornire indicazioni in merito allo stato dell'arte della ricerca in relazione alle patologie epatiche e di indicare i centri o le reti di ricerca maggiormente attivi sul fronte della suddetta malattia;
2. di fornire statistiche sulla diffusione della malattia in Europa e sulle cause principali alla base della stessa;
3. di esplicitare le misure adottate dall'UE e dai singoli paesi membri per conferire visibilità alla malattia e trasmettere utili norme di prevenzione.

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(20 giugno 2014)

L'UE ha sostenuto la ricerca sulle epatopatie per gli aspetti della diagnosi, della prevenzione e del trattamento dell'epatite virale, delle patologie infiammatorie del fegato e del cancro del fegato nell'ambito del Settimo programma quadro di ricerca, sviluppo tecnologico e dimostrazione 2007-2013 per un importo di circa 147,8 milioni di euro. Tra gli esempi di progetti di ricerca vi sono FLIP sulla steatosi epatica <sup>(1)</sup> e MIP-DILI sulla prevenzione della farmacotossicità a danno del fegato <sup>(2)</sup>.

Orizzonte 2020, il programma quadro di ricerca e innovazione (2014-2020) <sup>(3)</sup>, fornirà ulteriori opportunità di sostegno della ricerca sulle epatopatie nell'ambito della sfida societale «Salute, cambiamento demografico e benessere». Informazioni sulle attuali opportunità di finanziamento possono essere ottenute tramite il portale dedicato alla ricerca e all'innovazione <sup>(4)</sup>.

Se è vero che la Commissione europea non raccoglie dati sulla prevalenza delle epatopatie è vero anche che Eurostat pubblica statistiche delle cause di mortalità per 85 malattie tra cui le patologie croniche del fegato. Nel 2010 quasi 81.000 persone sono morte di patologie croniche del fegato nell'UE28.

Il consumo di alcol è un importantissimo fattore di rischio per la cirrosi del fegato: in Europa esso è responsabile del 58-78 % di tutti i casi di questa malattia, che interessa entrambi i sessi e tutte le fasce d'età al di sopra dei 15 anni. Dai dati emerge che l'impatto dell'abuso cronico di alcol sulla cirrosi è estremamente elevato <sup>(5)</sup>. Tuttavia i cittadini dell'UE non sono sufficientemente consapevoli di questa stretta correlazione. Una delle cinque priorità della Strategia 2006 dell'UE in materia di alcol <sup>(6)</sup> è informare e sensibilizzare sull'impatto di un consumo d'alcol a rischio. La Commissione opera di concerto con gli Stati membri nell'ambito del Comitato per le politiche e le azioni nazionali in materia di alcol e con un'amplia panoplia di stakeholder nell'ambito del forum Alcol e salute al fine di ridurre i danni sanitari legati all'alcol.

<sup>(1)</sup> Fatty liver: Inhibition of Progression, <http://www.flip-fp7.eu/>

<sup>(2)</sup> MIP-DILI Mechanism-Based Integrated Systems for the Prediction of Drug-Induced Liver Injury, <http://www.mip-dili.eu/>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/docs/ebs\\_331\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/docs/ebs_331_en.pdf)

<sup>(6)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/alcohol/documents/alcohol\\_com\\_625\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/documents/alcohol_com_625_en.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005504/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Low profile of liver diseases

According to some estimates, liver diseases, and cirrhosis of the liver in particular, are extremely costly in terms of human suffering, GP and hospital visits and loss of productivity. Currently, cirrhosis of the liver is one of the ten biggest causes of death in Western societies. In spite of this, little attention is paid to the disease. Recently, moreover, a number of studies have indicated that certain genetic predispositions, combined with an unhealthy lifestyle, could favour the development of liver diseases in young people.

In this context, would the Commission:

1. provide details of the status of research into liver diseases, and indicate the main research centres or networks for research into the abovementioned disease?
2. provide statistics on the prevalence of the disease in Europe and its main causes?
3. give details of the action taken by the EU and individual Member States to raise the profile of the disease and to inform people about prevention?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(20 June 2014)

The EU has supported research on liver diseases dealing with the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis, inflammatory liver diseases and liver cancer under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities 2007-2013 with some EUR 147.8 million. Examples of research projects include FLIP on fatty liver disease <sup>(1)</sup> and MIP-DILI, on prevention of drug toxicity to liver <sup>(2)</sup>.

Horizon 2020 — the framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) <sup>(3)</sup>, will provide further opportunities to support research on liver diseases through its 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing' societal challenge. Information on current funding opportunities can be obtained at the Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(4)</sup>.

While the European Commission does not collect data on the prevalence of liver diseases, Eurostat publishes causes of death statistics for 85 diseases including chronic liver disease. In 2010 close to 81 000 people died from chronic liver disease in the EU28.

Alcohol consumption is a key risk factor to liver cirrhosis: in Europe it accounts for 58 to 78% of the cases of this disease, including both sexes and all age groups above 15. Data shows that the impact of chronic heavy drinking on cirrhosis is extremely high <sup>(5)</sup>. Yet, the knowledge of EU citizens on this close association is inadequate. One of the five priority themes of the 2006 EU Alcohol Strategy <sup>(6)</sup> is to inform and raise awareness on the impact of hazardous alcohol consumption. The Commission is working closely with Member States within the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action and with a wide range of stakeholders within the European Alcohol and Health Forum to reduce alcohol related harm.

<sup>(1)</sup> Fatty liver: Inhibition of Progression, <http://www.flip-fp7.eu/>

<sup>(2)</sup> MIP-DILI Mechanism-Based Integrated Systems for the Prediction of Drug-Induced Liver Injury, <http://www.mip-dili.eu/>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.htm>

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/docs/ebs\\_331\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/docs/ebs_331_en.pdf)

<sup>(6)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/alcohol/documents/alcohol\\_com\\_625\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/documents/alcohol_com_625_en.pdf)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005505/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Medicinali ed effetti collaterali sul fegato

Nell'ambito di un appuntamento internazionale, tenutosi a Londra, si affronta il problema relativo alle conseguenze negative dell'assunzione di farmaci sullo stato di salute del fegato.

Gli antibiotici sarebbero i principali imputati, riguardo a questo, ma non farebbero eccezione i medicinali a base di erbe, per via delle sostanze tossiche che comunque permangono — anche in percentuale residua — nella soluzione.

In termini quantitativi, la questione è difficilmente definibile, ad ogni modo, le cifre sono significative riguardo alle patologie sviluppatesi al fegato in seguito all'assunzione di medicinali (antibiotici in primis).

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. di fornire informazioni e indicare eventuali studi relativi agli effetti negativi sul fegato, causati dall'assunzione di farmaci;
2. di indicare eventuali misure predisposte dall'UE al fine di favorire il monitoraggio degli effetti collaterali dei farmaci sullo stato di salute del fegato.

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(19 giugno 2014)

I medicinali possono essere immessi sul mercato dell'UE soltanto previa valutazione della loro qualità, sicurezza ed efficacia e se si è giunti alla conclusione che il loro uso presenta un bilancio positivo in termini di rischi/benefici. Gli eventuali effetti collaterali dei medicinali sono menzionati nel foglietto informativo che correde tali prodotti.

Dopo il rilascio dell'autorizzazione iniziale, la sicurezza di un medicinale è monitorata lungo il suo intero ciclo di vita. Nell'UE esistono meccanismi per raccogliere e monitorare le segnalazioni di sospette reazioni avverse manifestatesi nei pazienti in seguito all'uso di un medicinale. Le sospette reazioni avverse possono essere segnalate dagli operatori sanitari o dai pazienti stessi all'autorità nazionale competente nel loro Stato membro. Il Comitato di valutazione dei rischi per la farmacovigilanza (PRAC) <sup>(1)</sup> facente capo all'Agenzia europea per i medicinali (EMA) valuta le segnalazioni di sicurezza in merito all'uso dei medicinali e, se del caso, formula raccomandazioni per modificare l'autorizzazione alla commercializzazione, ad esempio affinché si aggiornino le informazioni sul prodotto.

La Commissione non è in condizione di fornire un quadro del vasto corpus di studi scientifici sulle epatopatie farmaco-indotte. Nell'ambito del PQ7 <sup>(2)</sup> sono stati sostenuti diversi progetti in merito alla predizione della tossicità dei farmaci, comprese le epatopatie farmaco-indotte. Questi progetti ricevono in particolare un sostegno a valere sull'iniziativa sui medicinali innovativi <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> <sup>(5)</sup>. Anche nella rimanente parte del programma alcuni progetti hanno ricevuto un contributo finanziario unionale per un totale di oltre 57 milioni di euro.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Per ulteriori informazioni sulle procedure applicate dal PRAC per la gestione delle segnalazioni si rinvia al sito web dell'EMA:  
[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/regulation/document\\_listing/document\\_listing\\_000375.jsp](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/regulation/document_listing/document_listing_000375.jsp)

<sup>(2)</sup> Settimo programma quadro di ricerca e sviluppo tecnologico (2007-2013).

<sup>(3)</sup> [www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.mip-dili.eu/>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.imi-safe-t.eu/>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005505/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Medicines and side effects on the liver

An international congress held in London has raised the issue of damage to the liver as a result of taking medicine.

Antibiotics have been deemed to be the main culprit, but herbal medicines are not completely innocuous owing to the toxic substances that remain, albeit as a trace, in the solution.

While it is difficult to define the problem in quantitative terms, the figures are nonetheless significant as regards liver problems arising after taking medicines (primarily antibiotics).

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. Provide information and indicate any studies on the damage caused to the liver as a result of taking medicines?
2. Indicate any measures taken by the EU to facilitate monitoring of the side effects of medicines on the liver?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(19 June 2014)

Medicines can be placed on the EU market only after their quality, safety and efficacy have been evaluated and it is concluded that there is a positive benefit-risk balance for their use. Potential side effects of medicinal products are mentioned in the accompanying product information.

After the initial authorisation, the safety of a medicine is followed during its whole life-cycle. Within the EU there are mechanisms to collect and monitor reports of suspected adverse reactions in patients following the use of a medicine. Suspected adverse reactions can be reported by healthcare professional or patients themselves to the national competent authority in their Member State. The European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee assesses safety signals related to use of medicines <sup>(1)</sup> and when necessary make recommendations for amendment of the marketing authorisation, such as updates of the product information.

The Commission is not in a position to provide an overview of the large body of scientific studies on medicines-induced liver injury. In FP7 <sup>(2)</sup> several projects have been supported that address prediction of toxicity of drugs including drug-induced liver injury. These projects are notably being supported within the Innovative Medicines Initiative <sup>(3)</sup>, <sup>(4)</sup>, <sup>(5)</sup>. Also in the remainder of the programme some projects have been supported, for a total EU financial contribution of more than EUR 57 million.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Further information on PRAC signal management procedures is available on the EMA website see:  
[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/regulation/document\\_listing/document\\_listing\\_000375.jsp](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/regulation/document_listing/document_listing_000375.jsp)

<sup>(2)</sup> Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013).

<sup>(3)</sup> [www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.mip-dili.eu/>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.imi-safe-t.eu/>

*(Versione italiana)*

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005506/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Cure termali: l'eccellenza al servizio della salute

Le cure termali raggiungono livelli di eccellenza nelle numerose strutture tunisine, grazie a un protocollo ministeriale che fissa in maniera stringente le regole alle quali conformarsi per erogare tale tipo di servizi. Il protocollo stabilisce rigorosi parametri di qualità e sicurezza.

In particolare, la talassoterapia è fortemente rappresentativa delle pratiche termali tunisine: essa si rivela particolarmente importante per il trattamento di patologie di natura respiratoria, dermatologica, circolatoria, per le malattie reumatiche e per la riabilitazione medica.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione:

1. fornire informazioni sulle strutture termali europee in relazione al loro grado di eccellenza e alle ricadute sul benessere dell'utenza;
2. indicare studi che fanno riferimento alle patologie curabili attraverso la talassoterapia?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione  
(12 giugno 2014)**

La Commissione non dispone di informazioni quanto al livello di eccellenza dei centri termali europei e dei benefici sanitari che recano ai loro frequentatori.

Essa non è neanche in condizione di citare studi specifici in materia di talassoterapia e di patologie specifiche.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005506/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Spa Treatments: excellence in the service of health

Spa treatments in Tunisia's many spa centres are of a very high standard thanks to a government protocol that strictly regulates the provision of such services. The protocol establishes rigorous standards of quality and safety. Thalassotherapy is one of the leading types of spa treatment in Tunisia, being particularly important for the treatment of respiratory, dermatological and circulatory ailments, rheumatic diseases and for medical rehabilitation.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. provide information on European spa centres as regards the level of excellence thereof and the health benefits for customers?
2. indicate studies relating to diseases that can be treated by thalassotherapy?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(12 June 2014)

The Commission does not have information at its disposal regarding the level of excellence of European spa centres and their health benefit for customers.

It is also not in a position to indicate specific studies relating to thalassotherapy and specific diseases.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005507/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Adolescenti e autolesionismo: percentuali in crescita

Studiosi afferenti al campo delle discipline psicologiche lanciano un campanello d'allarme, in seguito alle consapevolezze emerse da una ricerca condotta in alcune città italiane sugli adolescenti. Nello specifico, la ricerca si concentrava su pratiche autolesioniste «in voga» fra gli adolescenti. I dati emersi, in realtà, non sono per niente confortanti: circa centocinquantamila ragazzi si autoinfliggono punizioni, come piccoli tagli sulla pelle (sino a lesioni anche più importanti). A monte del fenomeno ci sarebbe un cattivo rapporto con i termini del piacere e del dolore, socializzati in famiglia — soprattutto attraverso la pratica della punizione.

In seguito a quanto sopra, può la Commissione:

1. riportare ulteriori studi, relativi al medesimo fenomeno, condotti negli altri paesi membri;
2. far riferimento a strategie già impiegate e dimostratesi efficaci nel far fronte al problema di cui sopra?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(23 giugno 2014)

1. La Commissione non dispone di informazioni in merito a studi sull'autolesionismo negli Stati membri.
2. Secondo una rassegna condotta da Gore et al. <sup>(1)</sup> i disturbi neuropsichiatrici, che sono strettamente correlati a comportamenti a rischio come quelli autolesionistici, sarebbero tra i motivi più comuni di disabilità (45 %) delle persone tra 1 e 24 anni.

Progetti dell'UE come SEYLE <sup>(2)</sup> (finanziato a valere sul settimo programma quadro di ricerca e sviluppo tecnologico, PQ7) e SUPREME <sup>(3)</sup> (cofinanziato a valere sul programma unionale Salute) hanno dimostrato l'importanza di approcci multidimensionali all'autolesionismo che prevedono di dare ai giovani informazioni in tema di igiene mentale, procedere a uno screening dei problemi di salute mentale tra i giovani e sensibilizzare gli insegnanti.

In tale ambito sono stati finanziati anche altri progetti nell'ambito del PQ7 come ad esempio il progetto ROAMER e il progetto RICHE <sup>(4)</sup> volti a identificare le carenze e stabilire le priorità della ricerca in tema di salute mentale.

Una recente valutazione effettuata in Francia del modello House for Teens <sup>(5)</sup> (casa per adolescenti) è giunta alla conclusione che tale dispositivo presenta una reale efficienza ed efficacia riconosciuta da tutti. Queste strutture sono rivolte ai giovani tra gli 11 e i 25 anni e ai loro genitori e si prefiggono di rispondere a molteplici esigenze. Su incarico del Parlamento europeo la Commissione sostiene l'azione preparatoria «ADOCARE» (2013-2015) <sup>(6)</sup> che esamina se in altri paesi esistano queste strutture di supporto multidisciplinari adattate alle esigenze degli adolescenti o se se ne possa promuovere la realizzazione.

<sup>(1)</sup> Gore FM, Bloem PJ, Patton GC, Ferguson J, Joseph V, Coffey C, Sawyer SM, Mathers CD (2011) Global burden of disease in young people aged 10-24 years: a systematic analysis. *Lancet* 377:2093-2102.

<sup>(2)</sup> SEYLE — 223091 (<http://www.seyle.eu/>)

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://www.supreme-project.org/>

<sup>(4)</sup> ROAMER — 282586 (<http://www.roamer-mh.org>), RICHE — 242181 (<http://www.childhealthresearch.eu/>)

<sup>(5)</sup> Inspection générale des affaires sociales: Evaluation de la mise en place du dispositif «maison d'adolescents» (MDA) (2013)

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://www.actionforteens.eu/projects/adocare>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005507/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Growth in the number of adolescents who self-harm

Psychology researchers have sounded the alarm following the results of research carried out on adolescents in a number of Italian cities. The studies focused on the growing 'trend' in self-harm by adolescents. The statistics which have emerged are somewhat frightening, with some 1 50 000 youths admitting to self-inflicting punishment, such as small cuts on the skin (and in some cases more serious injuries). A negative relationship with the concepts of pleasure and pain, in the home, especially through the infliction of punishment, appears to be behind the phenomenon.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. provide information on any other studies on this subject, carried out in other Member States?
2. state what strategies have already been employed and proved to be effective in addressing this problem?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(23 June 2014)

1. The Commission has no information about studies on self-inflicted harm in Member States.
2. According to a review by Gore et al. <sup>(1)</sup> neuropsychiatric disorders, which are strongly associated with risk-behaviours such as self-harm, were the most common reasons of disability (45%) of individuals aged 1-24 years.

EU-projects such as SEYLE <sup>(2)</sup> (financed under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, FP7) and Supreme <sup>(3)</sup> (co-financed from the EU-Health Programme) have shown the importance of multi-dimensional approaches to addressing self-inflicted harm, including providing information on mental health to young people, screening for mental health problems in young people and raising awareness among teachers. .

In this respect, other projects have been funded under FP7 aiming to identify gaps and priorities in mental health research such as the ROAMER-project and the RICHE <sup>(4)</sup>-project.

A recent evaluation in France of the model House for Teens <sup>(5)</sup> concluded on 'objective efficiency' and 'effectiveness accepted by all'. Such establishments target young people between 11 and 25 years of age and their parents, and seek to respond to multiple needs. On behalf of the European Parliament, the Commission supports the 'Adocare' <sup>(6)</sup> — preparatory action (2013-2015) which is considering whether such multi-disciplinary support facilities adapted to the needs of adolescents exist in other countries or can be promoted.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Gore FM, Bloem PJ, Patton GC, Ferguson J, Joseph V, Coffey C, Sawyer SM, Mathers CD (2011) Global burden of disease in young people aged 10-24 years: a systematic analysis. *Lancet* 377:2093-2102.

<sup>(2)</sup> SEYLE — 223091 (<http://www.seyle.eu/>).

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://www.supreme-project.org/>

<sup>(4)</sup> ROAMER — 282586 (<http://www.roamer-mh.org/>), RICHE — 242181 (<http://www.childhealthresearch.eu/>).

<sup>(5)</sup> Inspection générale des affaires sociales: Evaluation de la mise en place du dispositif « maison d'adolescents » (MDA) (2013).

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://www.actionforteens.eu/projects/adocare>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005508/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Incremento delle competenze dei GAL

Favorire la trasmissione delle competenze e l'incremento delle abilità dei GAL al fine di potenziare la loro capacità di gestione dei progetti e di facilitare la trasformazione di tali consorzi in vere e proprie agenzie di sviluppo rientra sicuramente tra gli obiettivi della nuova programmazione europea, con particolare riguardo per le risorse umane.

Quanto detto, peraltro, si concretizza nell'ambito di un progetto europeo transfrontaliero di cooperazione territoriale tra Sardegna, Libano ed Egitto. Il progetto in questione mira a sviluppare piccoli sistemi energetici ecocompatibili, in particolare per l'agricoltura. La regione capofila del progetto — la Sardegna — vede il proprio GAL trasformarsi in un'agenzia di sviluppo attraverso il potenziamento del know-how e la diversificazione del ventaglio di responsabilità ad esso attribuite.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione:

1. segnalare esiti virtuosi in tal senso, relativi all'ampliamento delle competenze dei GAL europei;
2. indicare le misure introdotte dall'UE per il rafforzamento delle strutture deputate alla gestione e implementazione dei programmi europei?

**Risposta di Dacian Cioloș a nome della Commissione**

(13 giugno 2014)

La Commissione non è al corrente degli esiti del progetto europeo transfrontaliero di cooperazione territoriale tra Sardegna, Libano ed Egitto.

La nuova legislazione adottata dal Consiglio e dal Parlamento europeo nel 2013 sullo sviluppo rurale prevede, a prescindere dalle norme in materia di assistenza tecnica, un aiuto ad hoc per lo sviluppo locale nell'ambito di LEADER che può includere anche un «LEADER start-up kit» a favore delle comunità locali che non hanno messo in atto LEADER durante il periodo di programmazione 2007-2013. Tale «LEADER start-up kit» consisterà nel sostenere lo sviluppo di capacità e piccoli progetti pilota.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005508/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Enhancing the skills of LAGs

Support the transfer of skills and increase the ability of LAGs so as to strengthen their capacity for project management and to help turn such groups into genuine development agencies is without doubt one of the aims of the new European programme, with particular focus on human resources.

Moreover, the above is embodied in the form of a European cross-border project for regional cooperation between Sardinia, the Lebanon and Egypt. This project aims to develop small ecofriendly energy systems, particularly for agriculture. The region designated as project leader, Sardinia, has seen its LAG transformed into a development agency through the strengthening of know-how and the diversification of the range of responsibilities assigned to it.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. state any positive results that have been achieved in this regard, relating to enhancing the skills of LAGs in Europe?
2. state what measures have been introduced by the EU to strengthen the structures responsible for the management and implementation of European programmes?

**Answer given by Mr Ciołoş on behalf of the Commission**

(13 June 2014)

The Commission is not aware of the results that have been achieved in relation to the European cross-border project for regional cooperation between Sardinia, the Lebanon and Egypt.

The new legislation adopted by the Council and the European Parliament in 2013 on rural development foresees, apart from the provisions on technical assistance, a specific support for Leader local development which may also include a 'Leader start-up kit' for local communities who did not implement Leader in the 2007-2013 programming period. The 'Leader start-up kit' shall consist of support for capacity building and small pilot projects.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005509/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Approcci profilattici «alternativi»

Da recenti notizie si apprende come vecchi approcci profilattici, rivelatisi efficaci in un passato non lontano, siano stati abbandonati dalla medicina occidentale: ci si riferisce, in particolare all'impiego dei batteriofagi. Questi ultimi, parassiti dei batteri, attaccano i secondi riproducendosi al loro interno, sino alla loro morte.

In realtà, alcuni paesi dell'Europa orientale hanno portato avanti tale approccio sviluppando progressivamente delle banche relative ai fagi — e ai loro nuovi ceppi.

Nello specifico, il fago si mostra efficace laddove il batterio abbia acquisito resistenza nei confronti degli antibiotici. Peraltro, il parassita dei batteri agirebbe senza produrre effetti indesiderati sull'organismo umano; in sostanza, tale azione è comparabile alle strategie «bio» impiegate in agricoltura.

Certamente, medicinali batteriofagi non sono ben definiti come quelli «standard», accolti nel sistema regolatore occidentale. Nondimeno, essi rappresentano un interessante strumento, passibile di nuovi studi.

Riguardo a quanto detto, può la Commissione fornire informazioni in merito ad un eventuale interesse da parte dell'UE rispetto ad approcci «alternativi» nel campo della profilassi?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(12 giugno 2014)

La relazione congiunta del Centro europeo per la prevenzione e il controllo delle malattie e dell'Agenzia europea per i medicinali «The bacterial challenge: time to react» (La sfida batterica: è tempo di reagire) ha dimostrato che la pipeline di nuovi antibiotici efficaci contro i batteri Gram-negativi altamente resistenti si compone solo di pochi composti. In questo contesto l'UE è interessata alla messa a punto di nuovi antibiotici nonché ad approcci «alternativi» quali i batteriofagi e la terapia fagica per controllare e prevenire la diffusione di batteri altamente resistenti.

La comunicazione della Commissione al Parlamento europeo e al Consiglio dal titolo «Piano d'azione di lotta ai crescenti rischi di resistenza antimicrobica»<sup>(1)</sup> indica le azioni volte a «rafforzare la ricerca per elaborare la base scientifica e mezzi innovativi di lotta alla resistenza antimicrobica». Tali azioni comprendono approcci «alternativi» quali la terapia fagica.

Nell'ambito del suo Settimo programma quadro (7° PQ) la Commissione sta già finanziando «PhagoBurn»<sup>(2)</sup>, un progetto varato nel giugno 2013 volto a valutare la terapia fagica per il trattamento delle ferite da ustione infette da *Escherichia coli* e da *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, che si dimostrano spesso resistenti a molteplici antibiotici e si rivelano problematici per la terapia del paziente.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2011) 748 definitivo.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/108695\\_it.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/108695_it.html); <http://www.phagoburn.eu/>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005509/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* 'Alternative' approaches to disease prevention

We learn from recent news that well-established approaches to disease prevention, which until fairly recently had proven to be effective, have been abandoned by Western medicine: I refer, in particular, to the use of bacteriophages. The latter, which are bacterial parasites, attack the bacteria, replicating within them until they die.

In reality, some Western European countries have taken this approach forward, gradually developing banks for phages and new strains thereof.

More specifically, phages have proved to be effective where the bacteria has become resistant to antibiotics. Moreover, the bacterial parasite appears to have no detrimental effects on humans. In essence, its action is similar to the 'organic' practices adopted by agriculture.

Clearly, bacteriophage-based therapies are not well established like the 'standard' drugs which feature in Western Europe's regulatory system. Nonetheless, they constitute an interesting tool which is worthy of further investigation.

In this context, can the Commission supply information regarding the possible interest of the EU in 'alternative' approaches to disease prevention?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(12 June 2014)

The joint report from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Medicines Agency 'The bacterial challenge: time to react' showed that the pipeline of new antibiotics against highly resistant Gram-negative bacteria was composed of only few compounds. In this context, the EU is interested in the development of new antibiotics and also in 'alternative' approaches such as bacteriophages and phage therapy to control and prevent the spread of highly resistant bacteria.

The Commission Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on its Action Plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance <sup>(1)</sup> mentions actions that aim at 'reinforcing research to develop the scientific basis and innovative means to combat AMR'. These include 'alternative' approaches such as phage therapy.

Under its Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the Commission is already funding 'PhagoBurn' <sup>(2)</sup>, a project that was launched in June 2013 and aims at evaluating phage therapy for the treatment of burn wounds infected with *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which are often resistant to multiple antibiotics and represent a challenge for patient therapy.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2011) 748.

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/108695\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/108695_en.html) and <http://www.phagoburn.eu/>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005510/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Disturbi alimentari: alcune strategie di cura

Un importante centro di cura per i disagi alimentari operante in Italia sta sperimentando una serie di attività laboratoriali finanziate da alcuni soggetti commerciali: sartoria, arti performative — danza, musica, scrittura — sono alcuni dei «mezzi» impiegati per la cura di questo disagio.

Il progetto — favorito, come già specificato, da privati — include anche la pubblicazione di un libro: una sorta di diario di bordo delle attività laboratoriali realizzate. Peraltro, tale esperienza ben si inserisce nell'ambito dell'operatività di un centro che vanta particolare esperienza e competenza nel trattamento di problematiche alimentari.

In seguito a quanto sopra, può la Commissione:

1. Fornire informazioni riguardanti l'incidenza dei disturbi alimentari in Europa?
2. Fornire informazioni riguardanti le principali terapie adottate?
3. Indicare eventuali strategie, misure, azioni a sostegno della cura dei disturbi alimentari?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(12 giugno 2014)

La Commissione non raccoglie dati sui disturbi alimentari. Essa raccoglie tuttavia dati sull'IMC <sup>(1)</sup> suddivisi per sesso, forniti su base volontaria nell'ambito dell'indagine europea sulla salute condotta mediante interviste da Eurostat <sup>(2)</sup>. L'erogazione dei servizi sanitari e dell'assistenza medica è di competenza degli Stati membri. Per sostenere questi ultimi in tale funzione la Commissione cofinanzia il progetto PROYOUTH (2011-2014) <sup>(3)</sup> a valere sul programma dell'UE per la salute. Tale progetto coinvolge sette paesi ed è inteso a fornire ai giovani informazioni sui disturbi alimentari attraverso il proprio sito web. Esso prevede un sostegno professionale e inter pares per impedire l'ulteriore sviluppo dei disturbi alimentari e dei problemi ad essi correlati e facilita, ove necessario, l'accesso al sistema di assistenza sanitaria ordinario per la consulenza o i trattamenti.

La Commissione europea ha altresì finanziato dieci progetti di ricerca sui disturbi alimentari nell'ambito del 7° programma quadro di ricerca. Tra questi sono compresi i progetti sulle determinanti delle scelte e delle abitudini alimentari (I.Family), sui meccanismi neurologici che regolano fame e sazietà (Full4ealth), sullo stress e i comportamenti alimentari (NeuroFAST), sulle nuove tecnologie che studiano le funzioni cerebrali in relazione ai comportamenti alimentari (Nudge-it), sull'impatto di cibo, comportamento nutrizionale, stile di vita e ambiente socioeconomico sulla depressione (MOODFOOD) nonché sull'autoregolazione dei sistemi cerebrali per i disturbi mentali, ivi incluso il «binge-eating disorder» (BRAINDRAIN).

L'azione preparatoria «ADOCARE» <sup>(4)</sup> intesa a costituire una rete di esperti a livello di UE nel settore dell'assistenza specifica agli adolescenti con problemi di salute mentale e il nuovo piano d'azione dell'UE sull'obesità infantile 2014-2020 <sup>(5)</sup> sono inoltre altre azioni dell'UE che potrebbero affrontare la questione dei disturbi alimentari in un contesto più ampio.

<sup>(1)</sup> Indice di massa corporea.

<sup>(2)</sup> Ulteriori dati al riguardo sono reperibili nelle relazioni «Health at a Glance 2012» (Uno sguardo alla sanità 2012) ed Eurobarometro n. 329 sui determinanti della salute del 2009.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://www.proyouth.eu/home.html>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.actionforteens.eu/projects/adocare>

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition\\_physical\\_activity/docs/childhoodobesity\\_actionplan\\_2014\\_2020\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/docs/childhoodobesity_actionplan_2014_2020_en.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005510/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Some strategies for the treatment of eating disorders

A major centre for the treatment of eating disorders in Italy is trialling a series of workshops funded by corporate partners, in which fashion and the performing arts (dance, music, writing) are some of the 'means' used to treat the illness.

The project — sponsored, as stated above, by the private sector — also includes the publication of a book, a sort of diary of the workshops held. The experimental initiative fits in well with the methods employed by this centre, which has particular experience and expertise in treating eating disorders.

Therefore, can the Commission

1. provide information regarding the rate of eating disorders in Europe?
2. provide information on the main forms of therapy used?
3. describe any strategies, measures or actions undertaken in support of the treatment of eating disorders?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(12 June 2014)

The Commission does not collect data on eating disorders. However, the Commission collects self-reported data on the BMI <sup>(1)</sup> by gender in the Eurostat European Health Interview Survey. <sup>(2)</sup> Providing health services and medical care is a responsibility of the Member States. To support MS in this regard, the Commission is co-financing from the EU Health Programme the project Proyouth (2011-2014) <sup>(3)</sup>. This project involves seven countries and aims to provide information about eating disorders to young people via its website. The project offers peer and professional support to prevent the further development of eating disorders and related problems. Where necessary, it facilitates access to the regular healthcare system for counselling or treatment.

The European Commission has also financed ten research projects on eating disorders under the 7th Research Framework Programme. These include projects on the determinants of food choice and eating habits (I.Family); neurological pathways regulating hunger/satiety (Full4ealth); stress addiction and eating behaviour (NeuroFAST); new technologies to study brain function in relation to eating behaviour (Nudge-it); the impact of food, nutritional behaviour, lifestyle and the socioeconomic environment on depression (MoodFOOD); and the self-regulation of brain systems for mental disorders including binge-eating disorder (Braindrain).

In addition, the preparatory action 'Adocare' <sup>(4)</sup> to create an EU network of experts in the field of adapted care for adolescents with mental health problems, and the new EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity 2014-2020 <sup>(5)</sup> are other EU level actions that are likely to touch upon the issue of eating disorders in a broader context.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Body Mass Index.

<sup>(2)</sup> In addition, relevant data can be found in the reports 'Health at a Glance 2012' and Eurobarometer No.329 on Health Determinants from 2009.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://www.proyouth.eu/home.html>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.actionforteens.eu/projects/adocare>

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition\\_physical\\_activity/docs/childhoodobesity\\_actionplan\\_2014\\_2020\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/docs/childhoodobesity_actionplan_2014_2020_en.pdf)



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005511/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

Oggetto: Grassi saturi: il nesso con il cancro al seno

Per quanto fosse già notorio l'effetto negativo dei grassi saturi sulla salute, ultimamente un nuovo studio condotto in Italia da un importante istituto di ricerca ha messo in evidenza il nesso fra i primi e il tumore al seno. La ricerca, basata su un campione di 10 000 donne europee con tumore al seno, fa parte di un progetto di studio particolarmente ambizioso, l'EPIC (*European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition*), che intende rintracciare relazioni fra stili di vita, alimentazione, inquinamento e patologie oncologiche.

Nello specifico, i grassi saturi favoriscono l'aumento dei livelli di estrogeni, contribuendo a sviluppare forme tumorali ormonodipendenti.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. di fornire dati relativi all'incidenza del cancro al seno nella popolazione europea;
2. di fornire informazioni in merito a iniziative contemplate dall'UE per promuovere studi analoghi e favorire la disseminazione dei relativi risultati al fine di sensibilizzare l'opinione pubblica.

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione  
(12 giugno 2014)**

La Commissione è a conoscenza dello studio pubblicato nel *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* cui fa riferimento l'onorevole deputato <sup>(1)</sup>.

Nel 2012 nell'Unione europea sono stati registrati 364 449 nuovi casi di tumore al seno (il 13,8 % del numero totale dei casi di cancro) e 90 575 decessi dovuti al tumore al seno (il 7,2 % del totale di decessi nell'Unione europea dovuti al cancro) <sup>(2)</sup>.

La maggiore incidenza del tumore al seno si osserva in Belgio (147,5 ogni 100 000), seguito dalla Danimarca (142,5), dai Paesi Bassi (131,3) e dal Regno Unito (129,2). In base ai recenti risultati di EUROCARE (Sopravvivenza dei pazienti oncologici in Europa), il tasso di sopravvivenza a 5 anni per il tumore al seno è migliorato passando all'82,4 % dei pazienti nel periodo 2005-2007, rispetto al 78,4 % nel periodo 1999-2001 <sup>(3)</sup>.

Il Codice europeo contro il cancro <sup>(4)</sup>, elaborato dall'Agenzia internazionale per la ricerca sul cancro (IARC) con il sostegno della Commissione, raccomanda di limitare l'assunzione di alimenti contenenti grassi di origine animale.

Le conclusioni dell'indagine *European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition* (EPIC) citata dall'onorevole deputato indicano solo una debole associazione positiva tra l'assunzione di grassi saturi e il rischio di tumore al seno positivo ai recettori, associazione che si è dimostrata più pronunciata nelle donne in postmenopausa che non hanno mai fatto ricorso alla terapia ormonale <sup>(5)</sup>.

Le future possibilità di finanziamento nell'ambito del programma dell'UE Orizzonte 2020 consentiranno di portare avanti la ricerca collaborativa sul cancro, che è stata e resta una priorità nei programmi quadro dell'UE. Le informazioni sulle attuali possibilità di finanziamento possono essere ottenute attraverso il portale della Commissione europea dedicato alla ricerca e all'innovazione <sup>(6)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24718872>.

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://eco.iarc.fr/EUCAN/CancerOne.aspx?Cancer=46&Gender=2>.

<sup>(3)</sup> De Angelis R, *Lancet Oncol.* 2014 Jan;15(1):23-34. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(13)70546-1.

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.cancercode.eu/third>.

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18996867>.

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005511/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Saturated fat and the link with breast cancer

The dangers of saturated fat to health are already well documented but now a new study, conducted in Italy by a major research institution, has highlighted the link between saturated fat and breast cancer. Based on a sample of 10 000 European women with breast cancer, this research forms part of EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition), a particularly ambitious study which aims to map the relationships between lifestyle, nutrition, pollution and cancer.

In this case, saturated fat promotes increased levels of oestrogen, fostering the development of hormone-dependent cancers.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. provide data on breast cancer rates in Europe?
2. provide information on initiatives planned by the EU to promote similar studies as well as publication of the results thereof, so as to raise public awareness of the issue?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(12 June 2014)

The Commission is aware of the study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, referred to by the Honourable Member <sup>(1)</sup>.

In 2012, there were 364 449 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed in the European Union (13.8% of total number of cancer cases) and 90 575 deaths due to breast cancer (7.2% of the total deaths in the European Union due to cancer) <sup>(2)</sup>.

The highest incidences of breast cancer are observed in Belgium (147.5 per 100 000), followed by Denmark (142.5), The Netherlands (131.3), and in the United Kingdom (129.2). According to the recent results of Eurocare (Survival of cancer patients in Europe) the survival rate in 5 years for breast cancer improved to 82.4% of patients in the period 2005-2007 compared to the 78.4% in the period 1999-2001 <sup>(3)</sup>.

The European Code Against Cancer <sup>(4)</sup> developed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) with support from the Commission, recommends to limit the intake of foods containing fats from animal sources.

The conclusions of the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) survey mentioned by the Honourable Member indicate only a weak positive association between saturated fat intake and receptor-positive breast cancer risk. This association was more pronounced for postmenopausal women who never used hormone therapy <sup>(5)</sup>.

Future funding opportunities within the EU Horizon 2020 Programme will allow continuation of collaborative research on cancer, which has been and remains a high priority in the EU framework programmes. Information on current funding opportunities can be obtained through the EC Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(6)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24718872>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://eco.iarc.fr/EUCAN/CancerOne.aspx?Cancer=46&Gender=2>

<sup>(3)</sup> De Angelis R, *Lancet Oncol.* 2014 Jan;15(1):23-34. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(13)70546-1.

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.cancercode.eu/third version>.

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18996867>

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005512/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Il microbiota intestinale e patologie collegate

Il microbiota intestinale rappresenta un vero e proprio organo, ormai oggetto di grande interesse da parte della medicina perché collegato a differenti patologie. Attraverso lo studio della flora batterica è possibile rintracciare il nesso con malattie quali il diabete, il morbo di Chron, la cirrosi, l'obesità. Di conseguenza, è altrettanto possibile pervenire a nuove conoscenze su dette malattie e intervenire terapeuticamente agendo sullo specifico batterio collegato.

In sostanza, tale settore appare particolarmente promettente e comunque già maturo, relativamente ad acquisizioni e trattamenti.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. di fornire informazioni relative allo stato dell'arte degli studi sul microbiota in Europa e sulle sue applicazioni;
2. di indicare le ricerche condotte su patologie quali la cirrosi (relativamente a incidenza, terapie adottate, risultati).

**Risposta di Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione  
(18 giugno 2014)**

L'intestino umano ospita un ecosistema microbico che svolge un ruolo importante nella mobilitazione dell'energia. Si è ipotizzato che esso contribuisca allo sviluppo di patologie metaboliche (obesità, diabete di tipo II) e/o di infiammazioni di lieve entità. Il ruolo del microbiota intestinale nello sviluppo dell'obesità è stato dimostrato per i roditori. Tuttavia, non si ha piena conoscenza né delle differenze tra il microbiota intestinale nei soggetti obesi e non obesi, né dell'impatto della dieta sulla composizione del microbiota stesso. Resta da stabilire una relazione di causa-effetto, cosa molto importante, e anche la rilevanza clinica per gli esseri umani.

Uno stile di vita sano, con una dieta equilibrata e un esercizio fisico adeguato restano la migliore raccomandazione per evitare patologie del metabolismo.

Per quanto riguarda la ricerca sul microbioma, nel corso del 7° PQ <sup>(1)</sup> la Commissione ha finanziato diversi progetti di ricerca, per un contributo UE totale pari a circa 60 milioni di euro <sup>(2)</sup> <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> <sup>(5)</sup> <sup>(6)</sup> <sup>(7)</sup> <sup>(8)</sup>.

La ricerca in campo sanitario intesa a comprendere e a prevenire l'instaurarsi della cirrosi, ad esempio, è stata finanziata dal 7° PQ nel quadro della ricerca sull'epatite C, che è una delle principali cause delle patologie epatiche croniche <sup>(9)</sup> <sup>(10)</sup>.

Gli inviti a presentare proposte nell'ambito di Orizzonte 2020, programma quadro per la ricerca e l'innovazione (2014-2020), possono aiutare anche questo settore della ricerca. Informazioni più dettagliate sono disponibili sul portale dedicato alla ricerca e all'innovazione <sup>(11)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Settimo programma quadro per le attività di ricerca, sviluppo tecnologico e dimostrazione (2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://fp7tornado.eu/>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://www.fibebiotics.eu/>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.early-nutrition.org/related-projects.html>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=39838&l=en>

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://www.metahit.eu/>

<sup>(7)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/111044\\_it.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/111044_it.html)

<sup>(8)</sup> <http://www.metacardis.eu>

<sup>(9)</sup> <http://www.hepacute.eu/>

<sup>(10)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/110138\\_it.htm](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/110138_it.htm)

<sup>(11)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005512/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Gut microbiota and related diseases

Gut microbiota, which constitutes an organ in itself, is currently the subject of great interest from the medical community after being linked to various diseases. The study of bacterial flora has revealed a link with diseases such as diabetes, Crohn's disease, cirrhosis and obesity. This has made it possible to learn more about these diseases, and to treat them therapeutically by targeting the specific bacterium concerned.

In essence, this appears to be particularly promising area, with significant developments already achieved, in terms of information and treatments.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. provide information regarding previous studies on microbiota in Europe and uses thereof?
2. state what research has been undertaken into diseases such as cirrhosis (as regards rate of the disease, treatment applied, and results)?

**Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission**

(18 June 2014)

The human gut harbours a microbial ecosystem that plays a role in energy harvest. It has been suggested that it contributes to the development of metabolic problems (obesity, type II diabetes) and/or low-grade inflammation. There is some evidence on the role of gut microbiota in the development of obesity in rodents. However, the differences between the gut microbiota in obese and non-obese individuals are not completely understood, nor is the impact of diet on its composition. Importantly, a cause and effect relationship remains to be established, as does the clinical relevance to humans.

A healthy lifestyle, with a balanced diet and adequate levels of physical exercise remains the best recommendation to avoid metabolic disorders.

As regards research on the microbiome, during FP7 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission funded several research projects with a total EU contribution of around EUR 60 million <sup>(2)</sup> <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> <sup>(5)</sup> <sup>(6)</sup> <sup>(7)</sup> <sup>(8)</sup>.

Health research relevant to understanding and preventing the onset of cirrhosis has for example been funded through FP7 in the context of research on Hepatitis C, which is a major cause of chronic liver diseases <sup>(9)</sup> <sup>(10)</sup>.

Calls for proposals under Horizon 2020, the framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), may also support this area of research. More detailed information can be found through the Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(11)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The Seventh Framework Programmes for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013).

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://fp7tornado.eu/>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://www.fibebiotics.eu/>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.early-nutrition.org/related-projects.html>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=39838&l=en>

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://www.metahit.eu/>

<sup>(7)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/111044\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/111044_en.html)

<sup>(8)</sup> <http://www.metacardis.eu>

<sup>(9)</sup> <http://www.hepacute.eu/>

<sup>(10)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/110138\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/110138_en.html)

<sup>(11)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005513/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Braccialetto salvavita

Un braccialetto salvavita approda nell'ambito delle prassi mediche di pronto intervento, direttamente dai circuiti delle auto da corsa. Si tratta di un piccolo archivio informatico, vale a dire una chiavetta USB, deputata alla registrazione dei dati sanitari della persona che la indossa. In tal modo il piccolo archivio consentirà agli operatori sanitari, in caso di emergenze — specie occorse a soggetti emofilici — di accedere tempestivamente a informazioni vitali, utili per predisporre i primi soccorsi.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione di fornire informazioni riguardanti la diffusione di dispositivi simili in altri contesti europei.

**Risposta di Neelie Kroes a nome della Commissione**

(19 giugno 2014)

La Commissione è al corrente di iniziative individuali adottate in diversi Stati membri da alcuni cittadini, i quali hanno salvato i propri dati personali a carattere medico, ad esempio su chiavette USB, per condividere le informazioni con gli operatori sanitari.

Alla Commissione, tuttavia, non risulta che questa soluzione, benché oggetto di discussione in numerose riunioni e conferenze dalla metà degli anni Novanta, sia stata applicata negli Stati membri e nei loro sistemi sanitari. Diverse ragioni hanno impedito di portarla avanti, tra cui le modalità per assicurare che le informazioni salvate nel dispositivo siano corrette e regolarmente aggiornate o per garantire un accesso sicuro ai dati.

Per questi motivi, al fine di consentire un accesso affidabile e sicuro ai dati medici nelle unità di pronto soccorso, la Commissione incoraggia l'adozione di soluzioni più avanzate basate sull'accesso diretto alle cartelle cliniche dei pazienti.

Queste soluzioni sono già in uso in alcuni Stati membri, come ad esempio Danimarca e Svezia.

Gli orientamenti sulle cartelle cliniche dei pazienti della rete di assistenza sanitaria on line <sup>(1)</sup>, recentemente adottati, vanno in questa direzione, sostenendo gli Stati membri nel rendere disponibili informazioni corrette e aggiornate per emergenze mediche o cure impreviste a livello transfrontaliero e nazionale.

Da molti anni l'UE finanzia inoltre soluzioni di sanità mobile, quali sensori e dispositivi da indossare (t-shirt intelligente, braccialetto). Nell'ambito del 6° e del 7° programma quadro l'attenzione si è concentrata principalmente sulle applicazioni sanitarie mobili per la gestione delle malattie croniche e, in secondo luogo, sull'accesso alle informazioni riguardanti la salute della persona <sup>(2)</sup>. Attualmente sono disponibili sul mercato braccialetti e cinturini intelligenti che i consumatori possono utilizzare per monitorare i loro parametri vitali e, se lo desiderano, trasmetterli ai medici.

<sup>(1)</sup> «Guidelines on minimum/non-exhaustive patient summary dataset for electronic exchange in accordance with the cross-border directive 2011/24/EU» ([http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/docs/ev\\_20131119\\_co1\\_2\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/docs/ev_20131119_co1_2_en.pdf)).

<sup>(2)</sup> Si veda una panoramica e un elenco dei progetti UE in «The Moving Life Project» dell'UE, «D2.1 Report on State of Play of Mobile Healthcare», pag. 135 e seguenti.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005513/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Lifesaving bracelet

Developed in motor racing, lifesaving bracelets are now being used in medical emergencies. The device consists of a small computer file, or USB stick, containing the wearer's medical records. In emergency situations — for example with a haemophiliac patient — this little file provides medical personnel with swift access to vital information that could ultimately save lives.

Can the Commission therefore provide information regarding the use of similar devices in other contexts in Europe?

**Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission**

(19 June 2014)

The Commission has heard about individual approaches taken by some citizens in different Member States who have stored their personal medical records for example on USB sticks for sharing this information with healthcare professionals.

However, the Commission is not aware of the implementation of this approach in the Member States and their healthcare systems although it has been discussed in many meetings and conferences since mid-90s. Different reasons have prevented taking it forward such as how to ensure that information saved in the device is correct and regularly updated or how to ensure secure access to data.

For these reasons, the Commission encourages the adoption of more advanced solutions to provide reliable and secure access to medical data in emergency care, based on direct access to patients' health records.

This approach is already in use in some Member States, for example in Denmark and Sweden.

The recently adopted Guidelines on Patient Summary by the eHealth Network <sup>(1)</sup> go in this direction, supporting Member States in having correct and up-to-date information available for medical emergencies or unplanned care for both cross-border and national use.

In addition, the EU has been funding mHealth solutions including sensors and wearable devices (smart t-shirt, bracelet) for many years. Under the 6th and 7th Framework Programme the focus was primary on mobile health applications for chronic disease management and secondarily on access to personal health information <sup>(2)</sup>. Currently, several smart bracelets and wristbands are available on the market and used by consumers to monitor their vital signs and, if they wish, share them with their doctors.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Guidelines on minimum/non exhaustive patient summary dataset for electronic exchange in accordance with the cross-border Directive 2011/24/EU ([http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/docs/ev\\_20131119\\_co1\\_2\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/docs/ev_20131119_co1_2_en.pdf)).

<sup>(2)</sup> See overview and list of projects in EU Moving Life Project, D2.1 'Report on State of Play of MobileHealthcare' p.135 and so on.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005514/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Una piccola realtà produttiva, una strategia di integrazione

Una piccola realtà produttiva italiana, condotta da migranti che hanno conosciuto la disperazione dello sfruttamento nei campi dei caporali, raccoglie in sé diversi elementi che parlano di integrazione, dialogo interculturale, riscatto, imprenditorialità e sostenibilità. Nello specifico, la piccola impresa casearia in questione, sorta grazie ad iniziative di microcredito e forte della sinergia con associazioni locali del terzo settore, valorizza le tradizioni gastronomiche del paese d'origine dei proprietari migranti e impiega strategie produttive ecosostenibili.

Al di là del singolo caso di cui sopra, qui si intende rilevare gli aspetti che convergono virtuosamente con alcune priorità della nuova programmazione europea, in merito ad occupazione, integrazione e sostenibilità.

1. Può la Commissione indicare le principali reti europee della solidarietà e del terzo settore?
2. Può inoltre indicare i progetti maggiormente rappresentativi, implementati da tali reti nella scorsa programmazione UE 2007-2013?

**Risposta di László Andor a nome della Commissione**

(18 giugno 2014)

La Commissione non può elencare le principali reti del settore europeo della solidarietà poiché sarebbe troppo complesso compilare e mantenere aggiornato un simile elenco. Per lo stesso motivo la Commissione non può fornire all'Onorevole deputato un elenco di progetti rappresentativi condotti nell'ambito di tali reti.

Tuttavia, molti di essi fanno parte della piattaforma sociale (<http://www.socialplatform.org/>) che è sostenuta dalla Commissione per il prezioso lavoro che svolge al fine di far incontrare le iniziative delle reti di ONG attive nel sociale.

Il dialogo delle parti interessate a livello di UE che si svolge nel quadro della piattaforma europea contro la povertà e l'emarginazione <sup>(1)</sup> agevola lo scambio regolare tra gli stakeholder e la Commissione. La Commissione fornisce anche sovvenzioni di funzionamento a 16 reti di ONG sociali attive a livello di UE <sup>(2)</sup> (cfr. l'elenco riportato in allegato).

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=it&catId=961>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=it&callId=383&furtherCalls=yes>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005514/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Small Italian business is a model of integration

A small Italian dairy producer, run by migrants who have experienced the misery of exploitation as farm labourers, stands as a symbol of integration, intercultural dialogue, freedom, entrepreneurship and sustainability. The small business in question, which got off the ground thanks to microcredit initiatives and a strong synergy with local service-sector associations, draws on the gastronomic traditions of its migrant owners' home country and employs environmentally sustainable production methods.

Aside from the specific case mentioned above, this is a situation that demonstrates aspects which are entirely compatible with some of the priorities of the new European programme, in terms of employment, integration and sustainability.

1. Can the Commission state the main European solidarity and service-sector networks?
2. Can the Commission also indicate the most representative projects, implemented by these networks in the previous 2007-2013 EU programme?

**Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission**

(18 June 2014)

The Commission cannot state the main European solidarity and service sector networks as it would be too cumbersome to compile and keep up to date such a list. For the same reason, the Commission cannot provide the Honourable member with a list of representative projects of such networks.

However, many of them are part of the Social Platform (<http://www.socialplatform.org/>) which is supported by the Commission for its valuable work in bringing together the initiatives of Social NGO networks.

The EU Stakeholder Dialogue taking place in the framework of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion <sup>(1)</sup> facilitates the regular exchange between stakeholders and the Commission. The Commission provides also operating grants to 16 EU level social NGO networks <sup>(2)</sup> (see list in annex).

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=961>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=383&furtherCalls=yes>



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005515/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Bonifica ambientale attraverso la canapa

Attualmente alcuni territori italiani, seriamente compromessi dalle attività industriali, stanno tentando di rispondere al problema ambientale attraverso l'impianto di coltivazioni di canapa: quest'ultima, in quanto intercettatore di sostanze inquinanti, si dimostra in grado di bonificare terreni inquinati.

Inoltre, altre varietà forestali contribuirebbero a rafforzare tale sistema di risanamento, mediante il loro impianto attorno a grandi industrie, quali cinture protettive e bonificanti.

Le imprese, peraltro, potrebbero ricevere incentivi per la messa a coltura delle piante salva-ambiente.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. di fornire notizie in ordine a eventuali studi condotti sulle proprietà bonificanti di diverse specie vegetali;
2. di chiarire se questo tipo di azioni possa godere di finanziamenti europei;
3. di indicare le principali misure adottate dall'UE a risanamento dei territori inquinati.

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

(24 giugno 2014)

Nell'ambito del programma LIFE viene attualmente cofinanziato un progetto di bonifica dei terreni degradati della regione della miniera di lignite di Konin in Polonia attraverso l'impianto di coltivazioni di canapa industriale. Ulteriori informazioni sul progetto sono disponibili *online* <sup>(1)</sup>.

Il sostegno del Fondo europeo agricolo per lo sviluppo rurale (FEASR) <sup>(2)</sup> è destinato alle zone rurali. Sebbene possa concedere sovvenzioni per la messa a dimora di piante specifiche benefiche dal punto di vista climatico e ambientale o per la creazione di fasce tampone e di zone di protezione in terreni agricoli e/o forestali, il FEASR non fornisce sostegno alle attività svolte nei siti industriali.

Nel quadro dei Fondi strutturali e di investimento europei (ESIF) <sup>(3)</sup>, gli Stati membri possono cofinanziare programmi di recupero di siti industriali e terreni contaminati, qualora questi siano stati identificati come investimenti prioritari nei programmi nazionali o regionali pertinenti.

<sup>(1)</sup> LIFE11 ENV/PL/000445 EKOHEMPKON.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=4408](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4408)

<sup>(2)</sup> GU L 347 del 20.12.2013, regolamento UE 1305/2013.

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/thefunds/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/index_en.cfm)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005515/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Environmental regeneration through hemp

A number of Italian regions which have suffered heavily from industrialisation are now attempting to tackle the environmental problem by planting hemp. Acting as a barrier to pollutants, hemp can be used to regenerate polluted land.

Other forest plants could also be used in land regeneration, by planting them around major industrial sites, forming a protective, regenerating green belt.

Companies could be granted incentives for growing environment-regenerating plants.

In view of the above, can the Commission:

1. Provide information regarding any studies on the regenerating properties of various plant species?
2. State whether this type of initiative could qualify for European funding?
3. State the main measures taken by the EU for the regeneration of polluted areas?

**Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission**

(24 June 2014)

A project on the remediation of degraded land in the region of Lignite Mine Konin in Poland by cultivation of industrial hemp is currently being co-financed under the LIFE programme. More information on this project is available online <sup>(1)</sup>.

The support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) <sup>(2)</sup> is focused on rural areas. While it is possible to grant payments for planting specific plants beneficial from the environmental and climatic viewpoint or creating buffer strips and protection zones on agricultural and/or forest land, EAFRD does not provide support for activities carried out on industrial sites.

In the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) <sup>(3)</sup>, Member States can co-finance programmes on the rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land, where this has been identified as a priority for investments in the relevant national or regional programmes.

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<sup>(1)</sup> LIFE11 ENV/PL/000445 EKOHEMPKON. [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=4408](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4408)

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 347 of 20.12.2013, EU Regulation 1305/2013.

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/thefunds/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/index_en.cfm)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005517/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Malattie rare: quando si tratta di piccoli pazienti

L'associazione pediatrica italiana punta la lente d'ingrandimento sulle malattie rare, relativamente ai piccoli pazienti che ne sono affetti: circa cinquantamila. Il territorio italiano sarebbe carente riguardo a strutture sanitarie specializzate per il trattamento delle patologie summenzionate; di conseguenza, gli oneri ricadrebbero sulle famiglie.

I rappresentanti delle associazioni pediatriche lamentano la scarsa visibilità del problema e sottolineano l'efficacia di cure intraprese tempestivamente, sulla base di una diagnosi precoce (possibile solo in presenza di strutture ad hoc). Peraltro, la costituzione di una rete a livello nazionale s'impone.

Ciò premesso, può la Commissione fornire informazioni in merito alle misure adottate dall'UE per conferire visibilità alle malattie rare che affliggono principalmente i bambini?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(11 giugno 2014)

La Commissione rinvia l'Onorevole deputato alla propria risposta all'interrogazione scritta E-002480/2014 <sup>(1)</sup> sullo stesso argomento.

Inoltre, la direttiva 2011/24/UE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 9 marzo 2011, concernente l'applicazione dei diritti dei pazienti relativi all'assistenza sanitaria transfrontaliera chiarisce i diritti dei pazienti a beneficiare di un trattamento sicuro e di buona qualità in altri paesi dell'UE e ad esserne rimborsati. La direttiva fornisce una solida base per una maggiore cooperazione tra le autorità sanitarie nazionali per il tramite di diverse azioni. Alcune disposizioni trattano in modo specifico delle malattie rare.

In particolare l'articolo 12 della direttiva prevede una più stretta cooperazione degli Stati membri e conferisce alla Commissione il mandato di sostenere gli Stati membri nello sviluppo di reti di riferimento europee tra prestatori di assistenza sanitaria e centri d'eccellenza negli Stati membri, soprattutto in relazione alle malattie a scarsa prevalenza, complesse o rare.

In tale contesto la Commissione sostiene nell'ambito del programma Salute la rete europea di riferimento di esperti in oncologia pediatrica per la diagnosi e la cura. Questo progetto pilota consentirà l'erogazione di assistenza sanitaria in uno Stato membro diverso da quello di affiliazione ai giovani e bambini affetti da cancro qualora l'esperienza disponibile in relazione a certe oncopatie sia scarsa e si registri un basso numero di casi. In tal modo il progetto agevolerà le terapie transfrontaliere dei tumori infantili rari.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005517/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Rare diseases and children

The Italian Paediatric Association has turned the spotlight on rare diseases and the some fifty thousand young people who suffer from them. Italy is sorely lacking in specialised medical facilities for the treatment of such diseases, with the burden thus falling on families.

Representatives of paediatric associations point to the lack of awareness of the problem and underline the effectiveness of swift treatment, which depends on an early diagnosis (only possible if there are specialised facilities). They also call for a national network to be set up.

Therefore, can the Commission provide information on the measures taken by the EU to raise awareness of rare diseases that primarily affect children?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(11 June 2014)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-002480/2014 <sup>(1)</sup> on the same subject.

Moreover Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare clarifies patients' rights to access safe and good quality treatment across EU borders, and be reimbursed for it. The directive provides a firm basis for increased cooperation between national health authorities through several actions. Some provisions address rare diseases specifically.

In particular Article 12 of this directive foresees enhanced cooperation of Member States and gives the Commission the mandate to support Member States in developing European Reference Networks between healthcare providers and centres of expertise in EU countries for low prevalence, complex or rare diseases.

In this context, the Commission is supporting a European Expert Paediatric Oncology Reference Network for Diagnostics and Treatment under the Health Programme. This pilot project will allow the provision of healthcare to children and young people with cancer in a Member State other than the Member State of affiliation, when the expertise with certain cancer conditions is rare and case volume low. As such, the project will facilitate access to cross-border care for rare childhood cancers.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005518/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Colonie batteriche protettive per il benessere del neonato

Recenti studi hanno corroborato pregresse consapevolezze relative al grado di igiene tollerabile per un neonato. Infatti, si mette in evidenza come troppe abluzioni e massaggi contribuiscano ad eliminare quella componente batterica sana, presente sulla pelle, che conferisce morbidezza e protezione alla stessa.

Soprattutto le madri sarebbero responsabili della trasmissione di importanti sostanze batteriche, quali i lieviti della specie *malassezia*, ai propri figli. Detergenti aggressivi o anche solo idratanti e umettanti possono alterare l'equilibrio microbico della pelle del neonato.

In seguito a quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione di fornire informazioni riguardanti le misure predisposte dall'UE per la sicurezza e appropriatezza di prodotti cosmetici per la prima infanzia.

**Risposta di Neven Mimica a nome della Commissione**

(12 giugno 2014)

Conformemente al regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009 <sup>(1)</sup> i prodotti cosmetici immessi sul mercato dell'Unione devono essere sicuri. Il fabbricante o l'importatore o, in certe circostanze, il distributore devono dimostrare che il prodotto che immettono sul mercato è sicuro <sup>(2)</sup>. Essi devono conservare una scheda informativa sul prodotto agevolmente accessibile in formato elettronico o altro per l'autorità competente dello Stato membro in cui la scheda è conservata all'indirizzo indicato sull'etichetta <sup>(3)</sup>.

Nel caso dei prodotti per l'infanzia la valutazione della sicurezza dei cosmetici, oltre ai requisiti generali, deve tener conto delle specificità del segmento di popolazione cui questi sono destinati. Conformemente alla legislazione, colui che effettua la valutazione della sicurezza deve prestare particolare attenzione al gruppo di destinatari, in particolare ai bambini di meno di tre anni <sup>(4)</sup>, all'atto di preparare la relazione sulla sicurezza che correda la scheda informativa sul prodotto.

Inoltre, per tutti i cosmetici, compresi quelli per l'igiene del bambino, si applicano altre misure restrittive come un divieto o una limitazione della concentrazione per quanto concerne le sostanze che possono provocare reazioni allergiche.

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<sup>(1)</sup> GU L 342 del 22.12.2009, pag. 59.

<sup>(2)</sup> Art. 10 del regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009.

<sup>(3)</sup> Art. 11 del regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009.

<sup>(4)</sup> Cfr. l'articolo 10 e l'allegato I del regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005518/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Protective bacteria which are beneficial to young babies

The growing awareness regarding acceptable levels of hygiene for infants has been backed up by recent research. Studies have confirmed that too much washing and massage can actually lead to the eradication of healthy bacteria on the skin, which protects the skin and keeps it soft.

Mothers in particular pass on important bacterial substances, such as the *Malassezia* species of yeast, to their children. Aggressive detergents, and even those designed to be simply moisturising, can alter the microbial balance of the skin of young babies.

Therefore, can the Commission provide information regarding the measures taken by the EU to ensure the safety and appropriateness of cosmetic products designed for infants?

**Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission**

(12 June 2014)

According to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 <sup>(1)</sup>, cosmetic products placed on the Union's market must be safe. The manufacturer or importer or, under certain circumstances, the distributor, has to demonstrate that the product they place on the market is safe <sup>(2)</sup>. They must keep a product information file readily accessible in electronic or other format to the competent authority of the Member State in which the file is kept at the address indicated on the label <sup>(3)</sup>.

In the case of baby products the cosmetic product safety assessment should, in addition to the general requirements, address the specificities of the subpopulation they are intended for. According to the legislation, the safety assessor must pay particular attention to the targeted populations, and in particular children under three years old <sup>(4)</sup> while preparing the report on safety which accompanies this product information file.

In addition, for all cosmetic products, including baby toiletries, other restrictive measures such as a ban or a restriction of concentration are imposed for substances which are likely to cause allergy.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJL 342, 22.12.2009, p. 59.

<sup>(2)</sup> Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

<sup>(3)</sup> Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

<sup>(4)</sup> See art. 10 and Annex 1 to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005519/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Carbonella, «legname» alternativo

Le sfide ambientali possono essere affrontate efficacemente solo a livello globale, ragion per cui soluzioni e strategie concepite in territori extra-europei meritano certamente considerazione.

La carbonella della noce di cocco appartiene a tale categoria: impiegata in Cambogia, essa sostituisce la carbonella derivante dal legname, ancora largamente utilizzata — specie per la cucina. In tal modo, si pone un argine al processo di deforestazione del paese e si riduce la quantità di inquinamento atmosferico.

Peraltro, tale strategia è stata segnalata agli Ashden Awards, che ogni anno evidenziano e premiano soluzioni energetiche sostenibili.

In seguito a quanto sopra, può la Commissione:

1. fornire informazioni relative a misure concepite dall'UE per la preservazione delle aree boschive?
2. Indicare le modalità attraverso le quali l'UE conferisce risonanza e visibilità a soluzioni e strategie ecocompatibili?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

(9 luglio 2014)

L'UE promuove la tutela dell'ambiente e la gestione sostenibile delle risorse naturali, comprese le foreste, a livello globale, e, attraverso varie politiche e disposizioni legislative, dà risalto e visibilità a soluzioni e strategie volte a preservare le foreste, compatibili con la tutela dell'ambiente.

In particolare, il piano d'azione dell'UE FLEGT incoraggia la gestione sostenibile delle foreste contrastando il disboscamento illegale e il relativo commercio. Il regolamento legno dell'UE <sup>(1)</sup> vieta la commercializzazione di legname di provenienza illegale nel mercato dell'Unione, e prevede che gli operatori esercitino la dovuta diligenza nell'approvvigionamento di legname e suoi derivati al fine di garantirne l'origine legale. Il regolamento CITES <sup>(2)</sup> affronta lo sfruttamento illegale delle specie protette. La gestione sostenibile delle foreste è il principio guida della strategia forestale dell'UE <sup>(3)</sup>. L'UE è inoltre un convinto sostenitore dei vari sforzi volti a ridurre le emissioni provenienti dalla deforestazione e dal degrado delle foreste (REDD+) nell'ambito della convenzione quadro dell'ONU sui cambiamenti climatici, nonché nell'ambito del Fondo per il partenariato per il carbonio forestale e UNREDD.

L'UE promuove l'accesso alle moderne forme di energie rinnovabili (come l'energia micro-idroelettrica o l'energia solare fotovoltaica) per ridurre drasticamente lo sfruttamento non sostenibile del legname come combustibile nelle foreste naturali. Le piantagioni di alberi da legna da ardere vicino ai centri di consumo urbano e l'utilizzo di fornelli perfezionati sono altre azioni sovvenzionate al fine di ridurre la pressione antropica sulle foreste naturali. Infine, l'UE ha mobilitato finanziamenti significativi per la protezione di vaste zone di ecosistemi naturali.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regolamento (UE) n. 995/2010 del Parlamento Europeo e del Consiglio, del 20 ottobre 2010, che stabilisce gli obblighi degli operatori che commercializzano legno e prodotti da esso derivati. GU L 295 del 12 novembre 2010, pag. 23.

<sup>(2)</sup> Regolamento (CE) n. 338/97 del Consiglio.

<sup>(3)</sup> COM(2013) 659.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005519/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Charcoal; an alternative to wood

Environmental challenges can only be dealt with effectively at a global level, and for this reason any solutions and strategies devised outside Europe certainly deserve consideration.

Coconut charcoal falls within this category; used in Cambodia, it replaces wood charcoal, which is still widely used, particularly for cooking. In this way, the process of deforestation in that country is put in check, and the amount of atmospheric pollution is reduced.

Furthermore, this strategy has been nominated for the Ashden Awards, which each year highlight and award prizes to sustainable energy solutions.

In view of the above,

1. Can the Commission provide any information regarding the measures implemented by the EU to preserve wooded areas?
2. Can it state the means by which the EU gives prominence and visibility to solutions and strategies compatible with the environment?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(9 July 2014)

The EU is promoting environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources, including forests, at global level, and gives prominence and visibility to solutions and strategies to preserve forests and which are compatible with environmental protection through several EU policies and pieces of legislation.

Specifically, the EU FLEGT Action Plan encourages sustainable management of forests by tackling illegal logging and associated trade. The EU Timber Regulation <sup>(1)</sup> prohibits the placing of illegally harvested timber on the EU market, and requires that operators exercise due diligence when sourcing timber products in order to ensure their legal origin. The CITES Regulation <sup>(2)</sup> addresses the illegal exploitation of protected tree species. Sustainable forest management is the guiding principle of the EU Forest Strategy <sup>(3)</sup>. The EU is also a strong supporter of efforts to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as in the framework of Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Unredd.

The EU promotes access to modern renewable energies (such as micro hydropower or solar photovoltaic electricity) to drastically reduce the unsustainable harvesting of fuel wood in natural forests. Tree plantations for fuel wood close to the urban consumption centres and improved cook stoves are other supported actions in order to reduce human pressure on natural forests. Finally, the EU has mobilised significant funding for the protection of large areas of natural ecosystems.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council Of 20.10.2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. OJ L 295 12.11.2010, p. 23-34.

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97.

<sup>(3)</sup> COM(2013) 659.



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005520/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

Oggetto: A scuola di imprenditorialità

Un interessante progetto concepito da una società assicurativa e da un'organizzazione no profit, implementato a livello internazionale (sono undici i paesi interessati), contempla la socializzazione degli orientamenti imprenditoriali fra i giovani, mediante una serie di incontri e seminari tenuti nelle scuole di secondo grado.

Nello specifico, si educa al «rischio», in maniera propositiva, incentivando la progettualità e la capacità di concepire e approntare soluzioni alternative.

In seguito a quanto sopra, può la Commissione:

1. fornire indicazioni relative ad esperienze analoghe, nel contesto europeo;
2. indicare dati statistici rilevanti la propensione al rischio delle giovani generazioni?

**Risposta di Antonio Tajani a nome della Commissione  
(27 giugno 2014)**

Diverse iniziative condotte in tutta Europa intendono incentivare lo spirito imprenditoriale e le abilità dei giovani. Alcune sono portate avanti da organizzazioni non-profit in collaborazione con le imprese e con le istituzioni di istruzione. Ad esempio la ONG Junior Achievement — Young Enterprise <sup>(1)</sup> organizza in quasi tutti i paesi europei programmi basati su attività pratiche come la gestione di micro imprese da parte di studenti nell'ambito dell'istruzione scolastica o di campi d'innovazione in cui i giovani sviluppano le loro idee imprenditoriali lavorando in gruppo. Con il piano d'azione Imprenditorialità 2020 <sup>(2)</sup> e con la comunicazione «Ripensare l'istruzione» <sup>(3)</sup> la Commissione ha invitato gli Stati membri ad offrire a tutti i giovani un'esperienza imprenditoriale pratica prima che essi lascino l'istruzione dell'obbligo. Strumenti unionali come Erasmus+ <sup>(4)</sup> possono offrire risorse aggiuntive a tal fine. L'educazione all'imprenditoria è anche promossa nell'ambito delle comunità della conoscenza e dell'innovazione supportate dall'Istituto europeo d'innovazione e tecnologia, come nel caso degli ICT Labs.

Per quanto concerne le disponibilità dei giovani ad assumersi rischi, i giovani europei continuano a non essere particolarmente desiderosi di intraprendere una carriera imprenditoriale. Conformemente all'ultima indagine Eurobarometro <sup>(5)</sup> in tema di imprenditorialità, quasi la metà (48 %) dei 15-24enni afferma di non vedere nel lavoro autonomo un'opzione desiderabile. Questi risultati sono più o meno confermati dalla recente indagine Eurobarometro (aprile 2014) sulla gioventù pubblicata dal Parlamento europeo, la quale ha riscontrato che il 52 % dei giovani europei tra i 16 e i 30 anni non desidera avviare una propria impresa. Questi dati confermano il fatto che l'istruzione è chiamata a svolgere un ruolo importante se si vuole che un maggior numero di giovani si avvii verso una carriera imprenditoriale, come risulta da una ricerca condotta nel Galles e in Danimarca <sup>(6)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> [www.ja-ye.org](http://www.ja-ye.org)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/entrepreneurship-2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/entrepreneurship-2020/index_en.htm)

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1389776578033&uri=CELEX:52012DC0669>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.htm)

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/eurobarometer/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/eurobarometer/index_en.htm)

<sup>(6)</sup> Per i dati relativi a un numero accresciuto di start-up cfr. la valutazione della Welsh Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy (YES) nella relazione di monitoraggio 2011 GEM UK. <http://www.gemconsortium.org/docs/download/2425>. Per indicazioni sugli impatti positivi in materia di leadership degli studenti e di redditi futuri cfr. la valutazione FFE-YE della strategia danese per l'educazione all'imprenditorialità: [http://eng.ffe-ye.dk/media/256547/effekt\\_m\\_ling\\_2012\\_eng\\_til\\_net.pdf](http://eng.ffe-ye.dk/media/256547/effekt_m_ling_2012_eng_til_net.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005520/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Lessons in entrepreneurship

An insurance company and a non-profit organisation have collaborated in the development of an interesting international project (spanning eleven countries) to provide a forum where young people can share and exchange entrepreneurial ideas, through a series of meetings and seminars in secondary schools.

In particular, it teaches budding entrepreneurs about 'risk', in a constructive manner, fostering planning skills and the ability to come up with and develop alternative solutions.

Therefore, can the Commission:

1. provide information on similar initiatives in Europe?
2. provide statistical data regarding young people's willingness to take risks?

**Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission**

(27 June 2014)

Several initiatives across Europe aim to enhance the entrepreneurial attitudes and skills of young people. Some are led by non-profit organisations in collaboration with businesses and educational institutions. For instance the NGO Junior Achievement- Young Enterprise <sup>(1)</sup>, organises in almost all European countries programmes based on practical activities, such as students running a mini-company at school or innovation camps where young people develop their entrepreneurial ideas by working in teams. With the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan <sup>(2)</sup> and the communication on Rethinking Education <sup>(3)</sup> the Commission asked Member States to offer all young people a practical experience in entrepreneurship before they leave compulsory education. EU instruments such as Erasmus+ <sup>(4)</sup> can offer additional resources for this work. Entrepreneurial learning is also promoted within Knowledge and Innovation Communities supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), as in the case of the ICT Labs.

As regards young people's willingness to take risk, young Europeans are still not particularly enthusiastic about entrepreneurship. According to the latest Eurobarometer <sup>(5)</sup> on Entrepreneurship, almost half (48%) of 15-24 year-olds say that self-employment is not a desirable option for them. These results are more or less confirmed by the recent (April 2014) Eurobarometer on Youth published by the European Parliament, which found that 52% of young Europeans aged 16-30 have no wish to start their own business. These data confirm that education has an important role to play if we want to attract more young people to an entrepreneurial career, as shown by research in Wales and Denmark <sup>(6)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [www.ja-ye.org](http://www.ja-ye.org)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/entrepreneurship-2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/entrepreneurship-2020/index_en.htm)

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1389776578033&uri=CELEX:52012DC0669>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.htm)

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/eurobarometer/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/eurobarometer/index_en.htm)

<sup>(6)</sup> For evidence of increased start-ups, see evaluation of the Welsh Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy (YES) in the GEM UK monitoring report 2011. <http://www.gemconsortium.org/docs/download/2425>. For evidence of positive impacts on pupil leadership and future income see the FFE-YE evaluation of the Danish entrepreneurship education strategy: [http://eng.ffe-ye.dk/media/256547/effektm\\_ling\\_2012\\_eng\\_til\\_net.pdf](http://eng.ffe-ye.dk/media/256547/effektm_ling_2012_eng_til_net.pdf)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005521/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Sistema informatico dei donatori di organi

La possibilità di creare una banca dati ad hoc dei donatori di organi sembra ormai non tanto remota per un paese dell'UE. Un sistema informatico andrebbe a categorizzare le informazioni relative all'elenco di donatori consenzienti. Il relativo assenso, registrabile sulla carta di identità con specifica voce, sarebbe rilevato e trasferito al sistema dagli operatori comunali. Ovvie le ricadute positive di un simile approccio.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. di fornire informazioni in merito alle misure predisposte dai singoli Stati per favorire la donazione degli organi;
2. di fornire dati statistici riguardanti i trapianti di organi in Europa.

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(3 giugno 2014)

La Commissione rinvia l'Onorevole deputato alle proprie risposte alle interrogazioni E-000216/2014, E-002776/2014, E-002777/2014, E-011096/2013, E-007300/2013, E-000513/2013, E-000780/2013, E-001680/2012 e E-010591/2011. <sup>(1)</sup>

Il mandato legale dell'Unione per quanto concerne i trapianti di organi è imperniato sugli aspetti della qualità e della sicurezza (articolo 168 del trattato). In tale contesto la direttiva 2010/53/UE <sup>(2)</sup> si prefigge di tutelare i donatori e i riceventi di organi. I sistemi per ottenere il consenso e la promozione della donazione degli organi sono questioni di competenza nazionale. Per aiutare gli Stati membri ad accrescere la disponibilità di organi e a rendere più efficiente il sistema dei trapianti la Commissione sostiene lo scambio volontario di pratiche ottimali tra i paesi dell'UE tramite il piano d'azione per la donazione e il trapianto di organi (2009-2015) <sup>(3)</sup>.

Il piano d'azione è volto a rafforzare la cooperazione tra gli Stati membri, ad esempio attraverso progetti finanziati dall'UE <sup>(4)</sup> cui partecipano gli Stati membri. Per valutare i progressi compiuti nell'ambito del piano d'azione è stato effettuato uno studio <sup>(5)</sup>. La Commissione ha presentato inoltre di recente un documento di lavoro dei servizi della Commissione <sup>(6)</sup> in cui passa in rassegna i progressi compiuti nell'ambito del piano d'azione. Le misure adottate dai singoli Stati membri sono rievocate in questi documenti da cui emerge che nel complesso si sono ottenuti risultati positivi.

La Commissione pubblica regolarmente statistiche <sup>(7)</sup> sui trapianti di organi in Europa, ad esempio sulle pagine web per i suoi Journalist Workshop <sup>(8)</sup> sulla donazione di organi.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html>

<sup>(2)</sup> Direttiva 2010/53/UE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 7 luglio 2010, relativa alle norme di qualità e sicurezza degli organi umani destinati ai trapianti, GU L 207 del 6.8.2010.

<sup>(3)</sup> Comunicazione della Commissione «Piano d'azione per la donazione e il trapianto di organi (2009-2015): rafforzare la cooperazione tra gli Stati membri», COM(2008) 819.

<sup>(4)</sup> L'elenco dei progetti è reperibile all'indirizzo <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/projects/database.html>

<sup>(5)</sup> Studio ACTOR: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/docs/organs\\_actor\\_study\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/docs/organs_actor_study_2013_en.pdf)

<sup>(6)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/docs/midtermreview\\_actionplan\\_organ\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/docs/midtermreview_actionplan_organ_en.pdf)

<sup>(7)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/docs/ev\\_20131007\\_rd3\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/docs/ev_20131007_rd3_en.pdf)

<sup>(8)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/events/journalist\\_workshops\\_organ\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/events/journalist_workshops_organ_en.htm)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005521/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Database of organ donors

The possibility of establishing an ad hoc database of organ donors now does not seem so remote for an EU country. A database would serve to classify information about the register of consenting donors. The consent in question, which could be indicated in a specific place on ID cards, would be recorded and transferred to the database by municipal operators. The positive impact which such an approach would have is obvious.

1. Can the Commission supply information about the measures taken by the individual States to promote organ donation?
2. Can the Commission supply statistics on organ transplants in Europe?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(3 June 2014)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answers to questions E-000216/2014, E-002776/2014, E-002777/2014, E-011096/2013, E-007300/2013, E-000513/2013, E-000780/2013, E-001680/2012 and E-010591/2011. <sup>(1)</sup>

The legal mandate of the Union in organ transplantation focuses on quality and safety aspects (Article 168 of the Treaty). As such Directive 2010/53/EU <sup>(2)</sup> seeks to protect donors and recipients of organs. Consent systems and the promotion of organ donation are issues of national responsibility. To help Member States in increasing organ availability and making transplantation systems more efficient, the Commission supports the voluntary exchange of best practices between EU countries through the action plan on Organ Donation and Transplantation (2009-2015) <sup>(3)</sup>.

The action plan is meant to strengthen cooperation between Member States, working e.g. through EU funded projects <sup>(4)</sup> in which Member States participate. To assess the progress made under the action plan, a study <sup>(5)</sup> was carried out. The Commission has also recently presented a staff working document <sup>(6)</sup> reviewing progress made under the action plan. Measures taken by the individual Member States are reflected in these reports which show that overall good progress was achieved.

The Commission regularly publishes statistics <sup>(7)</sup> on organ transplants in Europe, for example on webpages for its Journalist Workshops <sup>(8)</sup> on organ donation.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html>

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 207, 6.8.2010. Directive 2010/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7.7.2010 on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation.

<sup>(3)</sup> Communication from the Commission 'Action Plan on organ donation and transplantation (2009-2015): Strengthened Cooperation between Member States', COM(2008) 819/3.

<sup>(4)</sup> The list of projects is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/projects/database.html>

<sup>(5)</sup> ACTOR study: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/docs/organs\\_actor\\_study\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/docs/organs_actor_study_2013_en.pdf)

<sup>(6)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/docs/midtermreview\\_actionplan\\_organ\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/docs/midtermreview_actionplan_organ_en.pdf)

<sup>(7)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/docs/ev\\_20131007\\_rd3\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/docs/ev_20131007_rd3_en.pdf)

<sup>(8)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood\\_tissues\\_organ/events/journalist\\_workshops\\_organ\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/events/journalist_workshops_organ_en.htm)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005522/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Valorizzazione degli approdi e incentivazione dei percorsi turistici

Attualmente, una città portuale italiana ha predisposto un piano di sviluppo volto alla valorizzazione del fronte mare combinando l'ammodernamento del sistema di banchine con la messa a punto di nuovi percorsi alla volta del centro storico-archeologico, razionalizzando il sistema di mobilità urbana.

In particolare, attraverso tale piano, si intende puntare all'accoglienza dei turisti approdati, ospiti delle tante navi da crociera di passaggio. Inoltre, si considerano le interessanti ricadute di natura economica e sociale.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione:

1. fornire informazioni relative all'attivazione di piani di valorizzazione urbana analoghi, specifici per i Water-front;
2. fornire dati riguardanti le ricadute economico-sociali registrate a seguito dell'implementazione di tali progetti di valorizzazione urbana?

**Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione**

(24 giugno 2014)

1. La Commissione non dispone di informazioni specifiche in merito a progetti per il lungomare cofinanziati dal Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale in Italia. In linea con il principio di gestione condivisa applicato nel gestire la politica di coesione, la selezione dei progetti e la loro attuazione compete alle autorità nazionali. Informazioni sui progetti cofinanziati nel quadro della politica di coesione in Italia nel periodo 2007-2013 sono disponibili sul sito «OpenCoesione» <sup>(1)</sup>.
2. La Commissione non dispone di dati sulle ripercussioni socioeconomiche che produce l'attuazione di tali progetti di riqualificazione urbana.

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(1) <http://www.opencoesione.gov.it/>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005522/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Upgrading marina berths and attracting tourists

The city authorities of one Italian port have drawn up a plan for redevelopment of the waterfront. The berthing system will be modernised, while new routes will be developed at the same time as the city's old quarter, streamlining the urban mobility system.

The plan aims in particular to improve facilities for tourists who arrive at the port in the many cruise ships that dock there. It also takes account of the potential benefits in terms of economic and social development.

In view of the above, can the Commission:

1. Provide information regarding the implementation of similar urban redevelopment plans, specifically for waterfront locations?
2. Provide data on the socioeconomic impact observed following the implementation of such urban redevelopment projects?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission**

(24 June 2014)

1. The Commission has no specific information on waterfront projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in Italy. In line with the shared management principle used for the administration of cohesion policy, project selection and implementation is the responsibility of the national authorities. Information on projects co-funded within the framework of cohesion policy in Italy in the 2007-2013 period is available on the website 'Opencoessione' <sup>(1)</sup>.
2. The Commission does not have any data at its disposal on the socioeconomic impact following the implementation of such urban redevelopment projects.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.opencoessione.gov.it/>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005523/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Creazione di una corte penale ad hoc per giudicare le accuse contro l'UÇK

Ultimamente si sono fatte sempre più forti le voci che invocano la creazione di un tribunale speciale dell'UE per giudicare i presunti crimini di guerra attribuiti all'UÇK durante e dopo il conflitto del 1999. Le questioni principali che la corte ad hoc dovrebbe affrontare sarebbero la scomparsa di circa 400 persone (quasi tutti serbi del Kosovo) dopo la fine del conflitto armato del 1999 e le accuse di traffico di organi, divulgate in un noto rapporto presentato all'Assemblea del Consiglio d'Europa dal deputato svizzero Dick Marty nel 2011. Secondo il rapporto esisterebbero infatti prove secondo cui prigionieri di guerra serbi sarebbero stati prima trasportati nell'Albania settentrionale e poi uccisi per poterne vendere gli organi.

In merito a questa decisione, può la Commissione chiarire:

1. se è a conoscenza del parere dei governi di Serbia, Kosovo e Albania in merito alla creazione della suddetta corte?
2. Se la corte dovrebbe nascere sotto l'egida della corte penale internazionale?
3. Quale sia il suo parere in merito alla creazione di tale corte?

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione  
(30 giugno 2014)**

Il 27 maggio 2014, durante la sessione del Consiglio di sicurezza delle Nazioni Unite dedicata alle attività dell'UNMIK, il presidente della Serbia ha preso atto dell'impegno di trasferire gli eventuali procedimenti giudiziari derivanti dalle indagini svolte dalla task force investigativa speciale EULEX sulle accuse formulate dal senatore Marty. Durante la stessa sessione, il presidente del Kosovo ha ribadito l'impegno del Kosovo a portare avanti tale trasferimento <sup>(1)</sup>.

Commissione non risulta che le autorità albanesi abbiano preso posizione in merito.

La Corte penale internazionale è competente solo per gli avvenimenti verificatisi dopo l'entrata in vigore del suo statuto, il 1° luglio 2002. I crimini oggetto delle indagini della task force investigativa speciale EULEX sono stati commessi prima di questa data.

I procedimenti giudiziari saranno trasferiti in relazione agli addebiti mossi dalla task force investigativa speciale EULEX. Vista la natura delle accuse, è di fondamentale importanza garantire un contesto imparziale che consenta il corretto svolgimento dei procedimenti giudiziari.

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<sup>(1)</sup> La designazione non pregiudica le posizioni riguardo allo status ed è in linea con la risoluzione 1244/1999 dell'UNSC e con il parere della CIG sulla dichiarazione di indipendenza del Kosovo.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005523/14  
to the Commission  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)  
(24 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Creation of a special criminal court to hear charges against the UÇK

There have been increasingly insistent calls recently to set up a special European court to judge war crimes allegedly committed by the Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) during and after the 1999 fighting. The main issues that the special court should address would be the disappearance of some 400 people (almost all of them Kosovo Serbs) after the end of the armed conflict in 1999 and the accusations of organ trafficking made in a well-publicised report to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe by the Swiss member Dick Marty in 2011. The report claimed that there was in fact evidence that Serbian prisoners of war had first been taken to northern Albania and then killed so that their organs could be sold.

In view of this decision, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of the opinions of the Governments of Serbia, Kosovo and Albania regarding the creation of the abovementioned court?
2. Should the court be set up under the aegis of the International Criminal Court?
3. What is its own opinion about the creation of such a court?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission  
(30 June 2014)**

On 27th May 2014, the President of Serbia during the UNSC session dedicated to UNMIK activities took note of the commitment to re-locate judicial proceedings possibly arising out of the investigation led by EULEX Special Investigative Task Force (SITF) into the allegations raised by Senator Marty. During the same session, the President of Kosovo <sup>(1)</sup> reiterated Kosovo's commitment to proceed with such relocation of proceedings.

The Commission is not aware of a defined position of the Albanian authorities.

The ICC has jurisdiction only with respect to events which occurred after the entry into force of its Statute on 1 July 2002. The alleged crimes under investigation by the EULEX SITF took place before.

Judicial proceedings will be re-located in case of charges brought by EULEX SITF. In view of the allegations, it is critical to ensure that a dispassionate environment conducive to proper adjudication be provided.

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<sup>(1)</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244(1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005524/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) e Oreste Rossi (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Rischi legati all'utilizzo di saponi antibatterici

Uno studio statunitense (Università del Michigan) allunga alcune ombre sui saponi antibatterici, sostenendo che l'utilizzo di tali detergenti in realtà mette a rischio l'igiene e accresce notevolmente il rischio concreto di contrarre malattie e infezioni. Già in passato, la Food and Drugs Administration statunitense aveva messo in guardia contro questi saponi, arrivando addirittura ad affermare che questi potrebbero dare luogo all'insorgenza di batteri resistenti agli antibiotici. Per tale motivo, l'agenzia statunitense aveva deciso di sottoporre a una revisione sistematica le informazioni relative a questi prodotti.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione chiarire:

1. se è a conoscenza dello studio;
2. se è a conoscenza di altre fonti che confermino o smentiscano i risultati dello studio in oggetto;
3. se è in grado di fornire dati in merito alla diffusione di saponi antibatterici nel mercato europeo?

**Risposta di Neven Mimica a nome della Commissione**

(24 giugno 2014)

Ai saponi antibatterici commercializzati nell'Unione possono applicarsi le norme che disciplinano prodotti cosmetici e biocidi.

Nell'ambito dei prodotti cosmetici il Comitato scientifico della sicurezza dei consumatori ha preso in considerazione diversi studi dell'Università del Michigan all'atto di elaborare il proprio parere riguardante il triclosan <sup>(1)</sup>, che è il principio attivo utilizzato in molti saponi antibatterici. Sulla base del parere del Comitato, la Commissione ha recentemente introdotto restrizioni all'impiego del triclosan al fine di ridurre l'esposizione dei consumatori a questi prodotti <sup>(2)</sup>.

Nell'ambito dei biocidi il triclosan è attualmente oggetto di valutazione ai fini del suo uso per l'igiene umana, come ad esempio nei saponi antibatterici. L'Agenzia europea per le sostanze chimiche, la quale formula un parere sulle conclusioni di tale valutazione, è stata informata di tali studi.

La Commissione non dispone di dati riguardanti la commercializzazione di saponi antibatterici sul mercato dell'Unione.

<sup>(1)</sup> SCCP/1192/08, SCCP/1251/09 e SCCS/1414/11.

<sup>(2)</sup> Cfr. Regolamento (UE) n. 358/2014 della Commissione, GU L 107 del 10.04.2014, pag. 5.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005524/14  
to the Commission  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)  
(24 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Risks associated with the use of antibacterial soaps

A study in the United States (University of Michigan) has cast a shadow over antibacterial soaps, claiming that the use of these detergents actually places hygiene at risk and significantly increases the specific risk of contracting diseases and infections. The US Food and Drugs Administration had previously issued a warning against these soaps, and had even stated that they could give rise to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. For this reason, the US agency had decided to conduct a systematic review of the information relating to these products.

In view of the above, can the Commission clarify:

1. whether it is aware of the study;
2. whether it is aware of any other sources which confirm or refute the results of this study;
3. whether it is able to provide any data regarding the distribution of antibacterial soaps on the European market?

**Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission  
(24 June 2014)**

For antibacterial soaps marketed in the Union, the rules on cosmetics and biocides can potentially apply.

In the context of cosmetics, several studies from the University of Michigan were taken into account by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety when drawing up its opinions on triclosan <sup>(1)</sup>, which is the active ingredient used in many antibacterial soaps. Based on the Committee's opinion, the Commission has recently introduced restrictions to the use of triclosan to reduce consumers' exposure <sup>(2)</sup>.

In the context of biocides, triclosan is currently under assessment for its use for human hygiene purpose, such as for instance in antibacterial soaps. The European Chemicals Agency, which shall deliver an opinion on the conclusions of this assessment, has been made aware of these studies.

The Commission has no data regarding the distribution of antibacterial soaps on the Union's market.

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<sup>(1)</sup> SCCP/1192/08, SCCP/1251/09 and SCCS/1414/11.

<sup>(2)</sup> See Commission Regulation (EU) No 358/2014, OJ L 107, 10.4.2014, p. 5.

*(Versione italiana)*

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005525/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

*(24 aprile 2014)*

**Oggetto:** Cemento biodinamico cattura-inquinanti

In occasione dell'evento espositivo internazionale Expo2015, che darà ampio spazio a soluzioni ecosostenibili in diversi settori, un nuovo ritrovato, il cemento biodinamico, sarà impiegato per la realizzazione di alcune strutture deputate all'accoglienza dei visitatori.

Il cemento bio presenta diversi punti di forza relativamente a sostenibilità ambientale: in primo luogo, la componente bio permette ai pannelli del nuovo materiale di catturare alcune delle sostanze inquinanti presenti in atmosfera. Inoltre, la malta utilizzata deriva in buona misura da aggregati riciclati.

Alla luce di quanto sopra, può la Commissione comunicare se è in grado di fornire ulteriori informazioni in merito alla fruibilità del cemento biodinamico nel settore edilizio civile, al fine di diffondere l'utilizzo di materiali ecocompatibili?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

*(13 giugno 2014)*

Il regolamento sui prodotti da costruzione <sup>(1)</sup> fissa condizioni armonizzate per la commercializzazione dei prodotti da costruzione, mediante metodi di valutazione comuni. Oltre a questo, la Commissione non promuove prodotti specifici. Tuttavia, si discutono e si promuovono criteri generali in materia ambientale tramite i marchi di qualità ecologica e gli appalti pubblici «verdi» che includono taluni prodotti da costruzione. Inoltre, a breve saranno presentati i criteri riveduti per gli appalti pubblici verdi sugli immobili per uffici che comprenderanno aspetti relativi ai materiali e al loro impatto ambientale. Nelle prossime settimane la Commissione, in una comunicazione sugli edifici sostenibili, formulerà proposte volte a misurare più efficacemente l'impatto del ciclo di vita degli edifici, nonché a gestire i rifiuti da costruzione e da demolizione e il loro utilizzo come materiali riciclati.

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<sup>(1)</sup> GUL 88 del 4.4.2011.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005525/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Pollutant-capturing biodynamic cement

The Expo 2015 world fair will provide plenty of space for environmentally sustainable solutions in a variety of sectors. One new discovery, biodynamic cement, will be used to build some of the facilities to welcome visitors.

Biocement has a number of strong points as regards environmental sustainability. First, the bio component enables panels made of the new material to capture certain air-borne pollutants. In addition, the mortar used is derived to a great extent from recycled aggregate.

In view of the above, can the Commission say whether it can provide further information on how biodynamic cement can be used in the civil construction industry, so as to encourage wider use of environmentally friendly materials?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(13 June 2014)

The Construction Products Regulation <sup>(1)</sup> lays down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products via common assessment methods. Beyond this, the Commission does not promote any specific products. However, general environmental criteria are discussed and promoted via the tools of Eco-labels and Green Public Procurement, where certain construction products are included. Moreover, revised Green Public Procurement criteria on office buildings will be presented shortly and will include aspects for material and their environmental impacts. The Commission will, in the coming weeks, make proposals to improve measurement of the life cycle impact of buildings and for management of construction and demolition waste and their use as recyclates in a communication on sustainable buildings.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJL 88, 4.4.2011.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005526/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Una dieta povera di grassi nel trattamento dell'asma

Un recente studio, condotto in Australia, evidenzia come una dieta ricca di grassi saturi e di zuccheri aggravi i livelli infiammatori delle vie respiratorie e come, tendenzialmente, le persone affette da asma privilegino esattamente alimenti poco salutari.

Peraltro, a tali condizioni, l'efficacia dei farmaci adottati per la cura della patologia asmatica tenderebbe a ridursi.

Di conseguenza, ai fini dell'efficacia della cura, l'attenzione per il regime alimentare si affiancherebbe alla prescrizione del trattamento farmaceutico.

In seguito a quanto esposto, può la Commissione precisare quanto segue:

1. è a conoscenza dello studio in questione?
2. Studi simili sono stati condotti anche in Europa, beneficiando di finanziamenti europei?
3. Qual è l'incidenza dell'asma sulla popolazione europea?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(11 giugno 2014)

La Commissione non è a conoscenza dello studio menzionato effettuato in Australia sui comportamenti alimentari e l'asma.

Per quanto concerne la prevalenza, l'indagine europea sulla salute condotta mediante interviste <sup>(1)</sup> è stata realizzata nel 2008 quale progetto pilota e sono disponibili alcuni dati, ma non per tutti gli Stati membri <sup>(2)</sup>. La prossima tornata dell'indagine verrà effettuata in tutti gli Stati membri nel 2013-2015. Se è vero che i dati disponibili non consentono il calcolo della prevalenza dell'asma nell'UE poiché non tutti gli Stati membri hanno partecipato, la seconda tornata dovrebbe consentire un simile calcolo. L'Indagine europea sulla salute condotta mediante interviste verrà effettuata con cadenza quinquennale e dovrebbe consentire di monitorare le tendenze registrate negli Stati membri.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/european\\_health\\_interview\\_survey](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/european_health_interview_survey)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hlth\\_ehis\\_st1&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hlth_ehis_st1&lang=en)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005526/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Low-fat diets for treating asthma

A recent study carried out in Australia has shown that diets high in saturated fats and sugars lead to increased inflammation of the respiratory tract, and that asthma sufferers tend to favour unhealthy foods over healthier options.

To make matters worse, it now appears that the drugs used to treat asthma are becoming less effective.

Consequently, in order to keep their condition under control, asthma sufferers should not only take prescribed medication but also pay close attention to what they eat.

1. Is the Commission aware of the study referred to above?
2. Have any similar studies been carried out in Europe, and if so, have they received European funding?
3. How prevalent is asthma amongst the European population?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(11 June 2014)

The Commission was not aware of the mentioned study related to the dietary patterns of asthma sufferers in Australia.

Regarding prevalence, the European Health Interview Survey <sup>(1)</sup> was conducted as a pilot in 2008 and some data are available but not for all Member States <sup>(2)</sup>. The next wave of the survey will be conducted in all Member States in 2013-2015. While the available data does not allow the calculation of the prevalence of asthma in the EU as not all Member States participated, the second wave should allow for such a calculation. The European Health Interview Survey will be conducted every 5 years and should enable the monitoring of trends in the Member States.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/european\\_health\\_interview\\_survey](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/european_health_interview_survey)

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hlth\\_ehis\\_st1&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=hlth_ehis_st1&lang=en)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005527/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Integrazione della mobilità marittimo-terrestre

ARGES è il nome di un importante progetto che mira a informatizzare il processo di arrivo e di partenza delle navi nei porti italiani e greci. Tale sistema permette di snellire le procedure amministrative e di ridurre il tempo di permanenza delle navi nei porti, a vantaggio della sicurezza.

ARGES si colloca opportunamente nell'ambito delle priorità europee relative a un disegno infrastrutturale transnazionale e razionale.

In aggiunta, va a colmare determinate lacune logistiche denunciate di recente da alcune autorità portuali italiane.

In seguito a quanto esposto, può la Commissione far sapere se:

1. il progetto ha goduto di finanziamenti europei e in che misura;
2. sono stati adottati altrove in Europa progetti informatici simili nel quadro dei finanziamenti europei.

**Risposta di Siim Kallas a nome della Commissione**

(11 giugno 2014)

La digitalizzazione della raccolta dati richiesta da diverse autorità quando le navi arrivano o escono dai porti migliora l'efficienza dei controlli amministrativi e riduce gli oneri che gravano sui trasporti marittimi e sul commercio. Uno dei principali obiettivi della Commissione è stimolare lo sviluppo di interfacce uniche armonizzate per far sì che le navi che fanno scalo in più porti non debbano dotarsi di interfacce digitali diverse o rispettare prescrizioni diverse in materia di dati.

A tal fine, la direttiva 2010/65/UE<sup>(1)</sup> prevede l'istituzione di sportelli unici amministrativi nei porti entro giugno 2015. Inoltre l'iniziativa «cintura blu» agevolerà il transito delle merci dell'UE attraverso lo sviluppo di un manifesto elettronico armonizzato a livello europeo.

ARGES è un progetto INTERREG da 5 milioni di EUR, che sostiene lo sviluppo di interfacce marittime uniche conformi alla direttiva 2010/65/UE e della loro interfaccia con sistemi di informazione portuali in porti italiani e greci. La Commissione sostiene anche altri progetti analoghi.

Raccogliere in modo armonizzato i dati richiesti non è esclusivamente una scelta tecnica, quanto organizzativa. I progetti di cui sopra hanno il merito di promuovere la collaborazione tra diverse autorità a livello transfrontaliero ed europeo, in modo da spianare la strada all'attuazione di soluzioni realmente armonizzate e cooperative.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Direttiva 2010/65/UE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 20 ottobre 2010, relativa alle formalità di dichiarazione delle navi in arrivo o in partenza da porti degli Stati membri e che abroga la direttiva 2002/6/CE, GU L 283 del 29.10.2010.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005527/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Integration of movements between land and sea

The ARGES project is an important initiative that has been launched in order to digitise the arrival and departure process of vessels in Italian and Greek ports. Such a system will simplify administrative procedures and reduce the amount of time that vessels are berthed in ports, thus increasing security levels.

The ARGES project falls in line with one of Europe's key priorities, namely that of establishing a functional, transnational infrastructural system.

It will also help to alleviate certain logistical shortcomings that several Italian port authorities have recently bemoaned.

1. Can the Commission indicate whether this project has received any European funding, and if so, how much?
2. Have any similar digitisation projects been launched elsewhere in Europe and received European funding?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission**

(11 June 2014)

The digitalisation of data collection requested by various authorities when vessels arrive in or leave ports shall improve the efficiency of administrative controls and reduce administrative burden on shipping and trade. A key objective of the Commission is to stimulate the development of harmonised single windows, which prevent vessels calling in several ports to be confronted with multiple digital interfaces and multiple data requirements.

To this end, Directive 2010/65/EU <sup>(1)</sup> requires the establishment of administrative single windows in ports by June 2015. In addition the Blue Belt initiative will facilitate the transit of EU goods via the development of a harmonised electronic cargo manifest at European level.

The ARGES project is a EUR 5 million Interreg project, which supports the development of maritime single windows complying with Directive 2010/65/EU and their interface with port information systems in Italian and Greek ports. The Commission supports also other similar projects.

The challenge to collect in a harmonised way the required data is not solely technical but organisational. The above projects have the merit to foster the cooperation between various authorities at cross-border and at European levels, paving the way for the implementation of truly harmonised and cooperative solutions.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2010/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20.10.2010 on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the Member States and repealing Directive 2002/6/EC, OJ L 283, 29.10.2010.



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005528/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Una app per la cittadinanza attiva

Una nuova *app* concepita da alcuni studenti italiani permetterà ai cittadini di diverse amministrazioni della penisola di segnalare tempestivamente disservizi e inefficienze rilevate nel contesto comunale.

In tal modo, le segnalazioni pervenute saranno, mediante un sistema algoritmico, ricodificate, categorizzate e vagliate dagli amministratori. Al momento, ventuno comuni italiani si sono dotati del sistema, rendendo maggiormente concretizzabile la cittadinanza attiva e assicurando una maggiore vicinanza ai cittadini.

In aggiunta, il sistema promette anche nuove modalità di impiego, favorendo la comunicazione con le istituzioni.

Alla luce di quanto precede, può la Commissione:

1. fornire informazioni in merito alle principali strategie adottate in altri contesti europei per favorire la prossimità tra le istituzioni e i cittadini?
2. indicare eventuali ricerche condotte in Europa e finalizzate alla rilevazione del grado di partecipazione dei cittadini a iniziative riguardanti la cittadinanza attiva?

**Risposta di Neelie Kroes a nome della Commissione**

(13 giugno 2014)

Garantire una più stretta relazione tra i cittadini e le pubbliche amministrazioni era una delle 4 priorità della dichiarazione ministeriale di Malmö sull'eGovernment del 2009. Questa priorità è stata ripresa dal piano d'azione per l'eGovernment 2011-2015 in una serie di azioni come:

- la messa a punto dei servizi elettronici necessari per sostenere le iniziative dei cittadini (come previsto dall'art. 11 del trattato sull'Unione europea).
- l'avvio di nuovi progetti pilota di eGovernment e di eParticipation;
- lo sviluppo di servizi che possano coinvolgere le parti interessate in dibattiti e processi decisionali, partendo da progetti pilota e di dimostrazione.

Dal 2008 la Commissione ha avviato, con il sostegno del Parlamento europeo e nell'ambito del programma per la competitività e l'innovazione (CIP), diversi progetti di eParticipation che hanno promosso la partecipazione attiva dei cittadini al processo decisionale (vedere: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/eparticipation>). Alcuni progetti utilizzano le «app», per consentire ai cittadini di interagire con i responsabili politici attraverso dispositivi mobili.

Nel 2014 e nel 2015 la Commissione sosterrà progetti volti a promuovere la cittadinanza attiva e riguardanti, in primo luogo, la partecipazione aperta dei giovani (Young-5b) e, in secondo luogo, servizi mobili e innovativi di eGovernment per le PMI (INSO-9) nell'ambito della sfida sociale n. 6 del programma Orizzonte 2020: l'Europa in un mondo che cambia — società inclusive, innovative e riflessive.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005528/14  
to the Commission  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 April 2014)**

*Subject:* Active citizenship 'app'

A new app designed by a number of Italian students will enable the residents of various Italian municipalities to make timely reports concerning poor service and inefficiencies in local authority services.

In this way, reports received will be recoded, using an algorithmic system, classified and sorted by the administrators. At present, twenty-one Italian municipalities have signed up to the system, making active citizenship more achievable and ensuring a closer relationship with residents.

In addition, the system also promises new methods of use, facilitating communication with the institutions.

In view of the above,

1. Can the Commission provide any information concerning the main strategies adopted in other European contexts to encourage an approximation between institutions and citizens?
2. Can it indicate any research conducted in Europe aimed at showing the level of participation by citizens in initiatives relating to active citizenship?

**Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission  
(13 June 2014)**

Ensuring a closer relationship between citizens and public administrations was one of the 4 priorities of the Malmö eGovernment ministerial Declaration of 2009. That priority has been translated in the eGovernment 2011-2015 action plan under several set of actions such as:

- developing the electronic service to support 'citizens initiatives' (as foreseen by Art. 11 of the Treaty on European Union);
- launching new eGovernment and eParticipation pilot projects;
- developing services that involve stakeholders in public debates and decision-making processes building on pilots and demonstration.

Since 2008, the Commission has launched with the support of the European Parliament, several eParticipation projects under the Competitiveness and Innovation programme (CIP) which have promoted the active engagement of citizens in policy making. (see: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/eparticipation>). Some projects use 'apps' allowing citizens to interact with policy-makers through mobile devices.

In 2014 and 2015 the Commission will support projects aimed at promoting active citizenship, firstly on Open Participation among young people (Young-5b) and secondly on Innovative mobile eGovernment by SME (INSO-9) under the societal challenge 6 of Horizon 2020: 'Europe in a changing world — Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies'.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005529/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Sviluppo delle stampanti 3D e rischi per i diritti di proprietà intellettuale

Lo sviluppo delle stampanti 3D sta trovando applicazione in diversi settori industriali, ma anche in altri campi, come ad esempio la ricerca medica. I risultati sono eccezionali in numerosi settori, ma alcuni esperti e operatori economici avvisano riguardo i potenziali rischi che si nascondono dietro la stampa 3D. Diversi esperti in materia di tutela dei diritti intellettuali di proprietà hanno infatti avanzato la possibilità che, con la diffusione di queste stampanti, sarà impossibile garantire il rispetto di tale categoria di diritti. Un esempio concreto è il mercato dei giocattoli: così come oggi è possibile scaricare file audio e video coperti da copyright, in futuro i ragazzini potranno accedere online ai file con tutte le specifiche di progettazione dei loro giochi preferiti e riprodurli in casa. Ancora, utilizzando sensori di movimento, cosa non molto futuristica se si tiene conto che diverse consolle videoludiche già dispongono di questi dispositivi, sarà possibile effettuare una scansione di un oggetto, caricarlo in un file e poi ricrearlo.

Indubbiamente questa tecnologia può portare vantaggi enormi al mercato, ma non si devono sottovalutare questi aspetti, che rischiano comunque di arrecare danni economici non indifferenti. In merito a ciò, può la Commissione chiarire se ha già preso in considerazione questi aspetti e se sta studiando, insieme a esperti di settore, strategie per conciliare lo sviluppo di questa tecnologia con il rispetto dei diritti di proprietà intellettuale?

**Risposta di Michel Barnier a nome della Commissione  
(3 luglio 2014)**

La Commissione ritiene che le stampanti 3D possano offrire nuove opportunità economiche per il settore manifatturiero e il settore dei servizi dell'economia dell'UE. La tecnologia potrebbe dar luogo a rilevanti spostamenti strutturali positivi in determinate situazioni. Fermo restando che i requisiti di sicurezza delle stampanti 3D sono disciplinati dalla normativa armonizzata dell'UE <sup>(1)</sup>, la Commissione sta monitorando il modo in cui questa tecnologia viene applicata, nonché la sua diffusione e il suo sviluppo a livello sia del consumatore finale che business to business.

La Commissione mira a garantire che le sue politiche favoriscano gli sviluppi destinati a rafforzare il benessere. A tale riguardo, la Commissione ritiene che i potenziali benefici per la società e il grado di diffusione delle stampanti 3D dovrebbero essere agevolati mediante un quadro efficace in materia di diritti di PI. I progettisti, gli ingegneri e gli altri creatori distribuiranno e concederanno licenze su loro opere e disegni in formato digitale per le stampanti 3D solo se avranno fiducia nel pertinente quadro legislativo e di attuazione della normativa in materia di PI.

La Commissione desidera pertanto rassicurare l'onorevole parlamentare che essa mira a sviluppare e applicare la politica di PI in modo tale da ottimizzare l'inventiva, la creatività, l'innovazione e la diffusione delle idee e dei prodotti innovativi a vantaggio dei cittadini dell'UE. A tal fine essa mira a sviluppare un quadro normativo per i DPI che massimizzi i vantaggi per la collettività di tecnologie così rivoluzionarie.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Direttiva 2006/42/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 17 maggio 2006, relativa alle macchine e che modifica la direttiva 95/16/CE (GU L 157 del 9.6.2006).

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005529/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Development of 3D printers and risks to intellectual property rights

The development of 3D printers is finding application in various industrial sectors, but also in other areas, such as medical research. Results in many sectors are exceptional, but some experts and economic operators are advising of potential hidden risks behind 3D printing. Indeed, various experts on the protection of intellectual property rights have put forward the possibility that with the spread of these printers it will be impossible to ensure respect for that category of rights. A specific example is the toy market; just as it is now possible to download audio and video files protected by copyright, in future children will be able to access files online containing all the design specifications of their favourite toys and reproduce them at home. Also, by using movement sensors, not a very futuristic notion if we consider that various videogames consoles are already fitted with these devices, it will be possible to scan an object, save it in a file and then recreate it.

This technology can undoubtedly bring enormous advantages to the market, but we must not underestimate these aspects, which in any event threaten to cause not insignificant economic harm. In relation to this, can the Commission clarify whether it has already taken these aspects into consideration, and whether, together with experts in the sector, it is studying strategies to reconcile the development of this technology with respect for intellectual property rights?

**Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission**

(3 July 2014)

The Commission considers that 3D printing can offer new economic opportunities for the manufacturing and service sectors of the EU economy. The technology could give rise to significant positive structural shifts under certain scenarios. While safety requirements of 3D printers are regulated by EU harmonised legislation <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission is monitoring how this technology is being applied, its diffusion and development in both the final consumer and business to business spheres.

The Commission seeks to ensure that its policies facilitate such welfare enhancing developments. In that regard, the Commission believes that the potential societal benefits and extent of diffusion of 3D should be facilitated by an effective IP rights framework. Designers, engineers and other creators will need the requisite trust in the relevant IP legislative and enforcement frameworks to distribute and licence their designs and works in digital format for 3D printing purposes.

The Commission would therefore wish to reassure the Honourable Member that it seeks to develop and apply IP policy in such a manner that invention, creation, innovation and diffusion of innovative ideas and products are optimised for the benefit of EU citizens. In so doing, it aims to develop an IPR framework that will optimise the societal benefits of such 'game changing' technologies.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17.5.2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006).

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005530/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Inquinamento prodotto dall'utilizzo di internet

L'utilizzo delle reti internet comporta volumi di emissioni inquinanti piuttosto importanti, che si attestano intorno al 2 % delle emissioni globali annue. Considerando che un sito web di dimensioni medio-piccole è in grado di produrre 288 kg di anidride carbonica all'anno, si può cominciare ad avere una prima stima di quanto l'utilizzo di internet impatti sull'inquinamento globale, arrivando a un totale annuo di 830 milioni di tonnellate di anidride carbonica, dato che tra l'altro è in costante aumento e che, si calcola, raddoppierà entro il 2020. Gran parte di questo inquinamento deriva dal sostentamento di *webfarm* o *data center*, strutture spesso alimentate da combustibili fossili o altre fonti di energie inquinanti.

In merito a questa fonte di inquinamento, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. nella sua strategia di contrasto ai cambiamenti climatici ha preso in considerazione questo importante aspetto?
2. È a conoscenza di strumenti, iniziative o buone prassi che possano ridurre l'inquinamento atmosferico collegato all'utilizzo della rete internet?
3. Ritieni che, oltre alla creazione di strutture per la gestione e il corretto funzionamento della rete che siano ecosostenibili, la sensibilizzazione degli utenti a un corretto uso di internet (ad esempio tramite monitoraggio dell'inquinamento provocato dalla propria attività online) possa dare un contributo per ridurre la quota di emissioni nocive prodotte dall'utilizzo della rete?

**Risposta di Connie Hedegaard a nome della Commissione**

(20 giugno 2014)

L'utilizzo di internet consuma energia e genera pertanto emissioni di CO<sub>2</sub>. Il livello delle emissioni dovute all'utilizzo di internet, tuttavia, dipende principalmente dal modo di produzione dell'energia elettrica. La produzione di energia elettrica in Europa è soggetta al sistema di scambio delle quote di emissioni dell'UE (ETS dell'UE) e, di conseguenza, rientra nell'ambito di applicazione della politica dell'UE di riduzione delle emissioni. Il sistema ETS dell'UE fissa un limite o «tetto» al volume totale delle emissioni prodotte dalle centrali elettriche e da altri impianti del sistema. Il tetto si riduce nel tempo con il diminuire delle emissioni totali.

Le emissioni provenienti dai generatori di emergenza alimentati a combustibile presenti in sito nelle *webfarms* e nei *data centers* possono rientrare nell'ambito di applicazione del sistema ETS dell'UE in funzione della loro configurazione e delle loro dimensioni.

Le attività legate all'uso di internet non coperte dal sistema ETS dell'UE sono soggette agli obiettivi nazionali di riduzione delle emissioni ai sensi della decisione sulla condivisione dello sforzo. Oltre alla normativa in materia climatica, altre misure adottate a livello dell'UE, ad esempio in materia di specifiche per la progettazione ecocompatibile dei computer e dei server, contribuiscono anch'esse a ridurre il consumo di energia e le relative conseguenze. I *data centers* e le reti di trasmissione dei dati sono anch'essi coperti dal programma volontario previsto dal codice di condotta europeo per l'efficienza energetica.

Accrescere la consapevolezza dei cittadini dell'UE del loro ruolo nella riduzione delle emissioni è, naturalmente, essenziale nella lotta contro i cambiamenti climatici.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005530/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Pollution caused by use of the Internet

The use of the Internet leads to quite significant volumes of harmful emissions, which stand at around 2% of annual global emissions. Considering that a small to medium-sized website is able to produce 288 kg of carbon dioxide a year, we can begin to make an initial estimate of the impact on global pollution of Internet use, reaching an annual total of 830 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, a figure which, among others, is constantly on the increase and is expected to double by 2020. A large part of this pollution is caused by the maintenance of webfarms or data centres, buildings which often use fossil fuels or other polluting forms of energy.

In relation to this source of pollution,

1. Has the Commission taken this important aspect into account within its strategy to combat climate change?
2. Is it aware of any tools, initiatives or good practice which may reduce the atmospheric pollution linked to use of the Internet?
3. Does the Commission consider that, apart from the creation of ecologically sustainable structures for the management and proper operation of the web, making users aware of the correct use of the Internet (for example, by monitoring the pollution caused by their online activities) may contribute to a reduction in the proportion of harmful emissions caused by use of the web?

**Answer given by Ms Hedegaard on behalf of the Commission**

(20 June 2014)

Using the Internet means using energy and therefore generating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The level of emissions caused by the Internet use, however, mainly depends on how electricity is produced. Electricity generation in Europe is subject to the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and thereby included in the EU's emission reduction policies. The EU ETS sets a 'cap', or limit, on the total amount of emissions from power plants and other installations in the system. This cap is reduced over time so that total emissions fall.

The emissions from the on-site, fossil fuelled backup generators of webfarms and datacentres, depending on their configuration and size, may also be covered by the EU ETS.

Activities linked to the use of the Internet not covered by the EU ETS are subject to the national emission reductions target under the Effort Sharing Decision. In addition to the climate legislation, other EU-level measures relating to, for example, ecodesign requirements for computers and computer servers, also contribute to reducing the related energy consumption and impacts. Data Centres and data transmission networks are also covered by the voluntary programme provided by the European Code of Conduct for Energy Efficiency.

Raising EU citizen's awareness of their role in reducing emissions is, of course, vital in the fight against climate change.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005531/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Criticità di un progetto cinese per la difesa di alcuni centri urbani dallo smog

Un'impresa cinese sta sviluppando un sistema chiamato «Bubbles» per proteggere le città dall'eccessivo smog. Come il nome del progetto lascia intendere, si tratta di costruire una sorta di cupola piena di aria purificata entro cui i cittadini possano continuare a vivere la propria vita quotidiana. In realtà qualcosa di simile già esiste in Cina: delle bolle di plastica con all'interno aria purificata sono state infatti fatte costruire per le scuole private d'élite, per l'ora di ginnastica e le altre attività agonistiche, impossibili da praticare all'esterno a causa del gravissimo inquinamento. Il progetto Bubbles è però molto più lungimirante, volendo inglobare interi quartieri all'interno di queste bolle. Nonostante l'imponenza del progetto, restano però dei dubbi sulla sua efficacia nel risolvere il problema sempre più grave dell'inquinamento, dal momento che questo sistema sembra più una soluzione di ripiego volta a costruire piccole «roccaforti verdi» e non a proporre una strategia globale di lotta ai mutamenti climatici.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione chiarire:

1. Se condivide la posizione espressa?
2. Se è a conoscenza di sistemi simili allo studio o già applicati negli Stati membri dell'UE?
3. Se abbia discusso di questo progetto negli scorsi incontri bilaterali UE-RPC e se abbia discusso, più in generale, del ruolo della Cina nella lotta al cambiamento climatico?

**Risposta di Connie Hedegaard a nome della Commissione**

(16 giugno 2014)

1. Il progetto «Bubbles» non risolve il problema della cattiva qualità dell'aria e dei cambiamenti climatici, perché l'inquinamento atmosferico e i gas a effetto serra raggiungono comunque l'atmosfera senza subire un abbattimento. La produzione di aria «purificata» e il controllo dell'aria all'interno della bolla potrebbero invece incrementare il consumo energetico, con conseguente aumento delle emissioni di gas a effetto serra.
  2. Non siamo a conoscenza di progetti analoghi nell'UE. I problemi relativi alla qualità dell'aria in Europa vengono affrontati stabilendo standard ambiziosi in materia di emissioni.
  3. La lotta contro i cambiamenti climatici è una delle priorità del programma strategico per la cooperazione UE-Cina 2020. Sono frequenti le consultazioni su questo argomento, ma questo specifico progetto non è stato discusso. Le discussioni si concentrano ad esempio sulle misure di regolamentazione per ridurre le emissioni, tra cui l'istituzione di sistemi di scambio delle emissioni, norme sulla qualità dell'aria e la diffusione delle tecnologie pulite.
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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005531/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Shortcomings of a Chinese project for shielding several city centres from smog

A Chinese company is currently working on a project, which it has named 'Bubbles', for shielding cities from excessive smog levels. As the name of the project suggests, it involves constructing a dome or 'bubble' over an urban area and filling it with purified air, with the citizens inside this dome being free to continue leading their day-to-day lives. In actual fact, something similar has already seen the light of day in China: plastic bubbles filled with purified air have been built at several of the country's elite private schools for PE lessons and other sporting activities, which simply cannot take place outdoors due to extremely high levels of pollution. The Bubbles project, however, goes a great deal further than this, since it means to envelop entire districts within such plastic domes. However, despite the project's noble intent, doubts persist as to whether it will actually solve the increasingly severe problem of pollution, since it appears to be more of a makeshift solution that seeks to establish small 'green strongholds' rather than an actual universal strategy for combating climate change.

1. Does the Commission agree with the opinion given above?
2. Is it aware of any similar systems that either are currently being looked into or have already been rolled out in EU Member States?
3. Was this project, and, more generally, China's role in the fight against climate change, discussed during the most recent bilateral meeting between the EU and the PRC?

**Answer given by Ms Hedegaard on behalf of the Commission**

(16 June 2014)

1. The 'Bubbles' project does not resolve the issue of poor air quality and climate change as air pollution and greenhouse gases still reach the atmosphere unabated. Producing 'purified' air and controlling the air inside the bubble is likely to increase energy consumption and could lead to more greenhouse gas emissions.
2. We are not aware of any similar projects in the EU. Europe's air quality problems are being tackled through setting ambitious emission standards.
3. In the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation, the fight against climate change is one of the priorities. There are frequent consultations on this topic, but this specific project has not been discussed, instead discussions focus on issues like regulatory measures to reduce emissions, including the establishment of emission trading systems, air quality regulation, and the deployment of clean technologies.



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005532/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Strategie di reimpiego dei materiali di scarto

La logica del riciclo si attesta ormai come ineludibile, alleata importante dinanzi alle attuali emergenze ambientali. Nello specifico, qui si vuol sottolineare il valore di una socializzazione e diffusione di comportamenti ecologici nel corpo sociale, attraverso le sue diverse categorie.

Peraltro, strategie ingegnose prefigurano nuovi riutilizzi dei prodotti di scarto: si pensi ad esempio alle abitazioni realizzate con bottiglie di plastica (riempite di sabbia e unite fra loro da terra o cemento), che sono ignifughe e particolarmente fresche d'estate. Tali abitazioni sono state realmente costruite in alcuni paesi africani, dove sono state utilizzate quali luoghi dedicati all'istruzione.

In aggiunta, si potrebbe fare riferimento alle pareti di alto design — realizzate con bottiglie di plastica — della sede di una nota multinazionale.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione fornire informazioni in merito all'impegno profuso dall'UE nella promozione di buone pratiche relative al riciclo?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

(4 luglio 2014)

La Commissione ha avviato una serie di azioni a livello dell'UE per promuovere le migliori pratiche in materia di riciclaggio, vale a dire:

- oltre 100 progetti LIFE <sup>(1)</sup> erano incentrati sulla dimostrazione di tecnologie innovative per il riciclaggio di determinati materiali da diversi flussi di rifiuti, come i rifiuti urbani, pericolosi o agricoli;
- il primo programma di lavoro nell'ambito di Orizzonte 2020 <sup>(2)</sup> riguarda il tema «Waste: a resource to recycle, reuse and recover raw materials» quale priorità.

Campagne di informazione come «Generation Awake» <sup>(3)</sup> e la Settimana verde 2014 <sup>(4)</sup> riguardano il tema dei rifiuti come risorsa.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.search>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/climate-action-environment-resource-efficiency-and-raw-materials>

<sup>(3)</sup> [www.generationawake.eu](http://www.generationawake.eu)

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/index.htm>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005532/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Strategies for reusing waste material

The logic of recycling is now recognised as inescapable, an important ally in the current environmental crises. Specifically, we need to emphasise the value of socialisation and dissemination of ecological behaviours across the many social groups which make up our society.

Moreover, some ingenious strategies envisage new ways of reusing waste products: for example, houses made out of plastic bottles (filled with sand and held together by earth or cement), which are fireproof and particularly cool in summer. Such houses have actually been built in certain African countries, where they have been used as teaching centres.

We could also refer to the 'designer' walls of the headquarters of a well-known multinational, made out of plastic bottles.

In view of the above, can the Commission provide any information regarding the efforts made by the EU to promote good practice in recycling?

**Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission**

(4 July 2014)

The Commission has undertaken a number of actions at EU level to promote best practices in recycling, namely:

- Over 100 LIFE projects <sup>(1)</sup> have focused on demonstrating innovative technologies for recycling specific materials from different waste streams, such as hazardous, agricultural or municipal waste.
- The first Work Programme under Horizon 2020 <sup>(2)</sup> addresses 'Waste: a resource to recycle, reuse and recover raw materials' as a priority.

Information campaigns such as 'Generation Awake' <sup>(3)</sup> and Green Week 2014 <sup>(4)</sup> focus on waste as a resource.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.search>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/climate-action-environment-resource-efficiency-and-raw-materials>

<sup>(3)</sup> [www.generationawake.eu](http://www.generationawake.eu)

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/index.htm>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005533/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

Oggetto: Riciclo dell'acqua

Relativamente all'emergenza idrica, si moltiplicano le strategie basate sulla logica del riciclo.

Diverse, peraltro, sono le idee che trovano spazio in un articolo dedicato e che potrebbero essere sviluppate in un futuro molto prossimo.

Del resto, la depurazione chimica dell'acqua usata è prassi ormai in alcuni paesi africani (specie nei periodi di maggiore siccità) o in alcune città occidentali dove al momento non è bevuta, ma è impiegata per l'irrigazione.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. in che grado l'UE contempla lo sviluppo di strategie di riciclo per l'acqua, specialmente attraverso la promozione di buone prassi?
2. Esistono strategie analoghe attualmente implementate in Europa?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione  
(16 giugno 2014)**

Il riciclo dell'acqua è già in uso in alcuni Stati membri, ma attualmente in merito non esiste un approccio comune dell'Unione europea. A seguito del «Piano per la salvaguardia delle risorse idriche europee» <sup>(1)</sup>, la Commissione sta svolgendo una valutazione d'impatto relativa a un eventuale strumento a livello dell'UE per istituire norme comuni sul riciclo dell'acqua. La Commissione deciderà quali azioni intraprendere sulla base dei risultati della valutazione d'impatto.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005533/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Recycling of water

In response to water shortages, recycling strategies are increasingly being adopted.

Meanwhile, various ideas have been put forward in an article on the subject which could be developed in the very near future.

Chemical purification of wastewater is now practised in some African countries (particularly during the periods of most severe drought) or in some Western towns where at present the resultant product is used not as drinking water but for irrigation.

1. To what extent is the EU considering developing water recycling strategies, particularly by promoting good practices?
2. Are any similar strategies currently being implemented in Europe?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(16 June 2014)

Water reuse is already in place in some Member States but there is currently no common EU approach on this matter. Following up on the 'Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources' <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission is currently carrying out an impact assessment for a potential EU-level instrument establishing common standards on water reuse. Based on the results of this impact assessment, the Commission will determine the appropriate course of action.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005534/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Progetto per un nuovo strumento di monitoraggio dell'incitazione all'odio nel dibattito politico europeo

Un gruppo di ricercatori universitari catalani ha affermato di aver sviluppato uno strumento in grado di monitorare l'uso di linguaggio xenofobo e di incitazione all'odio a livello europeo, in modo che i partiti politici e la società civile possano valutare i discorsi fatti dai politici. Secondo gli studiosi, taluni politici utilizzano un linguaggio e temi specifici per «distrarre» l'attenzione dell'elettorato da problemi reali, sollevando emozioni negative nei confronti di «capri espiatori», come l'euro o l'Unione europea o specifiche classi, legittimando comportamenti razzisti o di elevazione di un piccolo gruppo rispetto alle masse.

Lo studio ha usato come campo di prova la Catalogna stessa, analizzando sei partiti politici, i loro programmi elettorali, interviste e discorsi in sessione plenaria tra il 2007 e il 2012, utilizzando tre indicatori: il *target* dei destinatari, l'accento posto sulla relazione tra «cittadini» e «migranti» e parametri linguistici (generalizzazioni, esagerazioni, metafore). In questo modo, è stato rivelato che discorsi populistici e semplicistici potrebbero divenire una caratteristica consolidata del dibattito pubblico, a detrimento della qualità dello stesso, dal momento che spesso sono gli stessi partiti politici a delineare la percezione che l'elettorato ha di determinati problemi.

Il responsabile del progetto vorrebbe estenderlo ora anche al Parlamento europeo, a partire dalla prossima legislatura. In merito a ciò, la Commissione può spiegare se:

1. È a conoscenza del progetto?
2. Ritene che questo possa divenire un metodo di valutazione efficace della qualità del dibattito politico europeo e possa fungere da sostegno alla lotta contro l'incitazione all'odio?

**Risposta di Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione**

(30 giugno 2014)

La Commissione non dispone di informazioni dettagliate sullo strumento sviluppato dai ricercatori spagnoli.

La Commissione condanna tutte le forme di razzismo, xenofobia e omofobia, nonché le forme di intolleranza connesse a tali fenomeni, in quanto incompatibili con i valori e i principi su cui si fonda l'Unione europea.

La decisione quadro 2008/913/GAI obbliga gli Stati membri a rendere punibile l'istigazione pubblica e intenzionale alla violenza o all'odio nei confronti di gruppi o individui, definiti in riferimento alla razza, al colore, alla religione, all'ascendenza o all'origine nazionale o etnica. La relazione della Commissione sull'attuazione della decisione quadro 2008/913/GAI è stata adottata il 27 gennaio 2014.

Nei casi concreti di presunta istigazione all'odio negli Stati membri, spetta alle autorità e ai tribunali determinare, a seconda delle circostanze e del contesto di ogni singola situazione, se quest'ultima rappresenti un'istigazione alla violenza o all'odio di matrice razzista o xenofoba. La Commissione non può sostituirsi alla valutazione del giudice penale a livello nazionale.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005534/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Project for a new tool to monitor incitement of hatred in European political debate

A group of Catalan university researchers claim to have developed a tool capable of monitoring the use of xenophobic language and the incitement of hatred in Europe. This will enable society and political parties to assess the speeches made by politicians. According to the academics, some politicians use specific language and topics to 'distract' the electorate's attention from real problems. Instead, they whip up negative emotions against 'scapegoats,' such as the euro, the European Union or specific social classes, opening the way to racist behaviour or elevating one small group over everyone else.

The study used Catalunya itself as its field of research. It analysed six political parties, their electoral manifestos, interviews and speeches in plenary session from 2007 to 2012. It applied three indicators: the target group; the emphasis placed on the relationship between 'citizens' and 'migrants;' and linguistic parameters (generalisations, exaggerations and metaphors). The method revealed that populist and simplistic speeches could become an established feature of public debate and detrimental to its quality, since it is often the political parties themselves which determine the electorate's perception of certain problems.

The project leader would now like to extend this to the European Parliament from the next legislature.

1. Is the Commission aware of this project?
2. Does it consider that this might become an effective method of assessing the quality of European political debate and lend support to action against the incitement of hatred?

**Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission**

(30 June 2014)

The Commission is not aware of the details of the tool developed by Spanish researchers.

The Commission condemns all forms of racism, xenophobia, homophobia and related forms of intolerance, irrespective of who they come from, as these phenomena are incompatible with the values and principles on which the European Union is founded.

Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA obliges the Member States to penalise the intentional public incitement to violence or hatred against groups or individuals defined by reference to their race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin. The Commission report on the implementation of Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA was adopted on 27 January 2014.

When it comes to concrete cases of alleged hate speech in the Member States, it is for the national authorities and courts to determine, according to the circumstances and context of each individual situation, whether such situation represents an incitement to racist or xenophobic violence or hatred. The Commission cannot replace the assessment of the criminal judge at national level.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005535/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Utilizzo di fondi strutturali per le imprese operanti nel settore della difesa

Nella comunicazione della Commissione «Verso un settore europeo della difesa e della sicurezza più competitivo ed efficiente», la Commissione europea pone in rilievo i problemi di natura economica relativi al settore della difesa, legati peraltro anche alla riduzione dei bilanci nazionali dedicati alla difesa. A tal proposito, la Commissione ha avanzato la possibilità di utilizzare i fondi strutturali per supportare le PMI e investire nei comparti di ricerca tecnologica più carenti, nonché per favorire la riconversione industriale e riqualificare la forza lavoro per far fronte alla sovrapproduzione. La soluzione presenta prospettive interessanti, eppure permane una serie di possibili ostacoli: innanzitutto il sistema dei fondi funziona secondo un sistema bottom-up, in cui sono le imprese a presentare progetti e richiedere investimenti, mentre un consolidamento come quello profilato dalla Commissione parrebbe necessitare piuttosto di un'azione *top-down* guidata da governi, istituzioni europee e grandi imprese. Inoltre, le imprese del settore difesa potrebbero trovarsi in seria difficoltà a competere per l'accaparramento dei fondi contro imprese del settore civile molto più abili ed esperte nella redazione e presentazione di progetti.

In merito a quanto detto, può la Commissione chiarire se ha tenuto in mente queste problematiche e se ha già ipotizzato sistemi e strumenti per porvi rimedio, qualora si decidesse di destinare i fondi strutturali anche a questo settore di mercato?

**Risposta di Antonio Tajani a nome della Commissione**

(23 giugno 2014)

Mentre le decisioni in merito a consolidamento e ristrutturazione restano di competenza del settore, la Commissione sta promuovendo l'impiego di una serie di strumenti disponibili per sostenere le PMI, incoraggiare nuove competenze e affrontare le ripercussioni della ristrutturazione. Tra tali strumenti vi sono i fondi strutturali e d'investimento europei (fondi SIE).

Al settore della difesa non è però stato destinato alcun fondo SIE e le decisioni riguardo alla distribuzione di questi fondi restano di competenza degli Stati membri e delle regioni. Le norme che regolano i fondi SIE non permettono inoltre di investire in progetti incentrati sul settore militare. Si possono tuttavia finanziare progetti ambivalenti purché siano rispettate determinate condizioni. Dato il crescente scambio reciproco tra la sfera civile e quella militare tale aspetto riveste un'importanza fondamentale. La maggior parte delle imprese operanti nel settore della difesa dipende già in larga misura dal mercato civile, le cui vendite si stimano variare tra il 39 % e il 62 % delle vendite totali.

La Commissione sta pertanto fornendo sia alle autorità regionali che alle PMI orientamenti riguardo alle condizioni di ammissibilità per progetti ambivalenti. Nell'estate 2014 verrà resa disponibile una guida su tale tema. La Commissione sta organizzando incontri per promuovere tali opportunità di finanziamento *bottom-up* per PMI e regioni operanti nel settore della difesa.

La Commissione sta anche lavorando a stretto contatto con l'Agenzia europea per la difesa (AED) al fine di rendere la comunità della difesa consapevole delle possibilità offerte dai fondi SIE nell'ambito di progetti ambivalenti. L'AED ha fornito sostegno alle richieste pilota di finanziamento ed elaborato altresì orientamenti specifici in merito.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005535/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Structural funding for companies operating in the defence sector

The Commission communication entitled 'Towards a more competitive and efficient defence and security sector' highlights the defence industry's economic problems, stemming partly from cuts in national defence budgets. In response to this situation, the Commission proposes using structural funding to support SMEs and invest in technological research in the areas in which this is most needed, as well as to encourage the industry to restructure and to retrain the workforce in response to overproduction. Although the solution put forward looks promising, there are a number of possible obstacles. First and foremost, the funding system is a bottom-up system in which companies submit projects and apply for investment, while the arrangements outlined by the Commission would appear to require top-down action guided by governments, European institutions and major corporations. Furthermore, defence companies could find themselves in serious difficulty competing for funding with civil-sector companies more skilled and experienced than they are in drawing up and presenting projects.

Can the Commission say whether it has taken the above problems into account and identified ways and means of remedying them if it is decided to allocate structural funding to this market sector?

**Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission**

(23 June 2014)

While decisions on consolidation and restructuring remain with the industry itself, the Commission is promoting the use of a range of tools available to support SMEs, foster new skills and tackle the impact of restructuring. This includes the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

No funding from the ESIF is being allocated specifically to the defence sector and the decisions on the allocation of ESIF remain in the hands of Member States and regions. Moreover, the rules of the ESIF do not allow for investment into projects that have a military focus. However, projects with dual use applications can be funded, provided certain conditions are met. This is of key importance in view of the increasing civil-military cross-fertilisation. Most defence-related companies are already heavily dependent on the civilian market with an estimated civil sales ranging between 39% to 62% of total sales.

The Commission is therefore providing guidance to both regional authorities and SMEs on the eligibility rules for dual use projects. A dual use guide will be available during summer 2014. The Commission is organising workshops which promote these bottom-up funding opportunities to defence-related SMEs and regions.

The Commission is also working closely with the European Defence Agency (EDA) to raise awareness among the defence community of the potential of the ESIF for dual use projects. The EDA has supported pilot applications for funding and also developed specific guidance.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005536/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Diffusione del car sharing

Complici le ristrettezze economiche legate alla crisi, ma anche la sensibilizzazione dell'opinione pubblica verso i temi ambientali, le nuove forme di mobilità in Europa si stanno diffondendo in maniera crescente, prima tra tutte il car sharing. Secondo alcuni studi, a influire su queste pratiche è anche l'età: i giovani, meno propensi a prendere la patente, con meno denaro a disposizione, ma con un elevato grado di interconnessione tramite internet, stanno dando un contributo enorme alla diffusione del car sharing.

I vantaggi in termini di riduzione del traffico, minore inquinamento e maggiore socializzazione sono tangibili: basti pensare che nella sola città di Milano oltre 90mila utenti condividono millecinquecento vetture, un sessantesimo rispetto al numero di vetture necessarie a trasportare singolarmente ogni passeggero. In totale, tra Europa e Stati Uniti, circa un milione di persone viaggia in car sharing, ma si stima che, entro il 2020, oltre dodici milioni di persone prediligeranno questo metodo di viaggio, tanto che oltre quattro milioni di vetture potrebbero sparire dalle strade di Europa e Stati Uniti.

In merito al car sharing e ad altre pratiche di mobilità innovativa, può la Commissione chiarire se:

1. dispone di stime relative alla diffusione del car sharing nei paesi UE;
2. siano state adottate a livello istituzionale locale e nazionale politiche di promozione del car sharing che possano rappresentare buone pratiche da adottare nell'UE;
3. esista un quadro di cooperazione o partenariato transfrontaliero tra attori pubblici e privati per la promozione di nuovi mezzi (app, incentivi, permessi di transito speciali) che possano facilitare l'affermazione del car sharing;
4. la diffusione di queste pratiche possa arrecare danni economici ai diversi livelli della filiera industriale automobilistica europea e se siano allo studio modelli d'impresa per far fronte a questi eventuali danni economici?

**Risposta di Siim Kallas a nome della Commissione**

(10 giugno 2014)

1. La Commissione non dispone di un quadro completo delle disposizioni nazionali destinate a promuovere il ricorso al car-sharing nei 28 Stati membri. Tra il 2008 e il 2011 la Commissione ha tuttavia sostenuto il progetto di car-sharing «Momo» che si è interessato anche ai sistemi di car-sharing in diversi Stati membri. I risultati di tale progetto sono reperibili all'indirizzo seguente <http://www.momo-cs.eu/>.
2. Il sito web del progetto Momo contiene inoltre informazioni sulle azioni locali intraprese in diverse città europee, nonché a livello nazionale in vari Stati membri per promuovere il car-sharing (cfr. la scheda 7 su «ottenere il sostegno degli enti locali» e la scheda 11 su «aiuti statali»).
3. La Commissione sostiene le piattaforme per lo scambio e la cooperazione sulla mobilità urbana, tra cui il car-sharing, mediante iniziative quali *Urban Mobility Observatory Eltis* ([www.eltis.org](http://www.eltis.org)), e programmi di ricerca e innovazione come *Civitas* ([www.civitas.eu](http://www.civitas.eu)). Altre piattaforme di scambio sono ad esempio le reti di città europee come *Eurocities* e *Polis*, nonché la piattaforma europea per la gestione della mobilità (EPOMM). La comunicazione <sup>(1)</sup> della Commissione sulla mobilità urbana riconosce che i nuovi approcci nella pianificazione della mobilità urbana hanno dato luogo a nuovi modelli di utilizzo dei veicoli, incentivando il passaggio verso una mobilità meno inquinante e più sostenibile.
4. La Commissione non ha indagato sui modelli d'impresa per attenuare i possibili effetti che la diffusione di sistemi di car-sharing potrebbe avere sull'industria automobilistica europea. Diversi costruttori di autovetture europei partecipano a sistemi di car-sharing (ad esempio Daimler AG con Car2Go).

(1) COM(2013) 913 definitivo.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005536/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Spread of car sharing

New forms of mobility are spreading in Europe, prompted by recession-related economic constraints and a growing public awareness of environmental issues. Top of the list is car sharing, and studies have found that age is a factor in these practices. Young people are less inclined to take driving tests, have less money at their disposal but are closely interlinked via the Internet. Thus they are making an immense contribution to the spread of car sharing.

The advantages are tangible: reduced traffic, less pollution and greater socialisation. In Milan alone, more than 90 000 users share 1 500 cars. That is one-sixtieth of the number of cars necessary to carry each passenger individually. The total for Europe and the USA is about 1 million people travelling by car sharing and it is estimated that, by 2020, more than 12 million will prefer this means of travel. So more than 4 million cars could disappear from the roads of Europe and the USA.

About car sharing and other innovative mobility practices, can the Commission explain:

1. Does it have estimates of the spread of car sharing in the EU Member States?
2. Have policies been adopted at local institutional and national levels to promote car sharing? Might these represent good practices to adopt in the EU?
3. Is there a framework for cross-border cooperation or public-private partnership to promote new methods that could help car sharing to catch on (apps, incentives and special transit permits)?
4. Might the spread of these practices do economic damage to the European car industry at various levels? Are business models being studied to tackle any such economic damage?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission**

(10 June 2014)

1. The Commission does not have a comprehensive overview of national arrangements and provisions promoting car-sharing use in the 28 Member States. Between 2008 and 2011, the Commission however supported the car-sharing project Momo, which also investigated the deployment of car-sharing systems in several Member States. The results of this project have been published at <http://www.momo-cs.eu/>
2. The Momo project website also provides information on local actions that have been taken in several European cities, as well as at national level in several Member States to promote care sharing (see e.g. the factsheet 7 on 'gaining the support of local councils' and factsheet 11 on 'state support').
3. The Commission supports platforms for exchange and cooperation on urban mobility, including e.g. car-sharing, via initiatives like the Urban Mobility Observatory Eltis ([www.eltis.org](http://www.eltis.org)), research and innovation programmes like Civitas ([www.civitas.eu](http://www.civitas.eu)). Other platforms for exchange are e.g. European networks of cities like Eurocities and Polis, as well as the European Platform for Mobility Management (EPOMM). The Commission Communication <sup>(1)</sup> on urban mobility recognises that new approaches to urban mobility planning also lead to the emergence of new patterns for car use thereby, stimulating the shift towards cleaner and more sustainable mobility.
4. The Commission has not investigated business models to mitigate possible effects that a spread of car-sharing systems might have on the European car industry. Several European car manufacturers have become involved in car sharing systems (e.g. Daimler AG with Car2Go.)

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2013) 913 final

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005537/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

Oggetto: Progetto sino-italiano di studio della geodesia spaziale e cooperazione spaziale europea

È ormai risaputo che la tecnologia satellitare può giocare un ruolo chiave nel monitoraggio della superficie terrestre in un'ottica di previsione di importanti eventi naturali e di prevenzione di grandi catastrofi ambientali. Lo stesso vale anche per quanto riguarda i movimenti tellurici, per i quali, nello specifico, lo studio delle zone ad alto rischio sismico consente di delineare previsioni di lungo periodo. L'Italia, tramite l'Agenzia spaziale italiana, ha già una notevole esperienza in materia soprattutto grazie al progetto, condotto in collaborazione con la NASA, che già nel 1992 ha portato in orbita un satellite dedicato allo studio della geodesia spaziale. Ora l'Italia ha deciso di rinnovare il proprio impegno in materia, questa volta in collaborazione con un'università dell'Italia settentrionale e con l'Amministrazione nazionale spaziale cinese. Il progetto prevede la realizzazione di apparecchiature per il monitoraggio sismico da installare sul satellite cinese CSES, che sarà lanciato in orbita nel 2016. Il fulcro della partecipazione dell'Italia al progetto ruota intorno alla realizzazione di un rivelatore di precisione per la misura degli elettroni che precipitano nell'atmosfera dalle fasce di Van Allen, in modo da sottoporre a verifica scientifica rigorosa i meccanismi che collegano la Terra e le sue dinamiche interne al plasma di particelle elementari che circonda la Terra, con l'obiettivo di sviluppare nuove tecniche per il monitoraggio sismico dallo spazio.

Alla luce delle considerazioni sopraesposte si chiede alla Commissione di rispondere ai quesiti di seguito riportati.

1. Il progetto beneficia di finanziamenti europei a titolo del programma Orizzonte 2020 o di fondi derivanti dal vecchio Settimo programma quadro 2007-2013?
2. Può far sapere se l'UE ha finanziato altri progetti dedicati allo studio della geodesia spaziale, anche attraverso programmi di collaborazione scientifica tra Stati europei ed extra-europei nel quadro dell'operato dell'Agenzia spaziale europea?

**Risposta di Michel Barnier a nome della Commissione  
(3 luglio 2014)**

1. I risultati del primo bando del programma Orizzonte 2020 sono ancora in fase di analisi. Per quanto riguarda il PQ7, esso comprende progetti specifici di carattere scientifico nel quadro di GEO <sup>(1)</sup> e Copernicus. Nell'ambito del tema Spazio del PQ7 sono stati finanziati due progetti dedicati allo studio dei segni precursori di terremoti, PRE-EARTHQUAKES e SEMEP, i quali erano connessi ai servizi di gestione emergenze di Copernicus. Nell'ambito del tema Ambiente del PQ7 sono stati avviati e sono tuttora in corso progetti specifici (MEDSUV, MARSITES, FUTURVOLC) a sostegno dell'iniziativa GEO Supersites, che mira a un approccio integrato nel cui ambito utilizzare i dati spaziali e in situ per un monitoraggio a lungo termine.
2. L'UE non ha finanziato alcuna missione dedicata allo studio della geodesia spaziale. Vi è tuttavia una serie di progetti connessi in senso lato al campo scientifico, quali i servizi di gestione delle emergenze di Copernicus e i progetti Geohazard, realizzati nel quadro dell'iniziativa GEO Supersites. Informazioni complementari ci vengono fornite dalla recente missione Sentinel-1, dalle precedenti ERS-1, ERS-2 ed Envisat, come pure risulteranno dalle prossime missioni Sentinel-2 e Sentinel-3. Anche le attività spaziali dell'ESA finanziate dagli Stati membri, come le missioni Earth Explorer GOCE e SWARM, forniscono informazioni a questo proposito. La missione SWARM, finalizzata all'osservazione e al monitoraggio del campo magnetico, fa inoltre uso di un sensore di campo elettrico, il quale potrebbe essere utilizzato per affrontare le particolari problematiche scientifiche relative al monitoraggio delle serie presismiche con forte rilascio di energia. La missione francese DEMETER, terminata nel 2010, aveva come obiettivi specifici le perturbazioni ionosferiche connesse a eventi anteriori e successivi ai sismi. L'impiego dei dati provenienti da tali missioni potrebbe, almeno in linea di massima, essere incluso nei prossimi bandi di Orizzonte 2020.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Gruppo di osservazione della Terra — Per maggiori informazioni consultare: <http://www.earthobservations.org/index.shtml>.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005537/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Chinese-Italian space geodesy project and European space cooperation

It is now recognised that satellite technology can play a key role in monitoring the surface of the Earth to predict significant natural events and prevent major environmental disasters. The same also applies to earthquakes, with the study of high-risk areas in particular making it possible to draw up long-term predictions. The Italian Space Agency already has considerable experience in the field, particularly from a project conducted in collaboration with NASA, which sent a dedicated space geodesy satellite into orbit as long ago as 1992. Italy has now decided to renew its commitment to the subject, this time in collaboration with a university in northern Italy and the China National Space Administration. The project is for the development of seismic monitoring devices to be fitted to the Chinese CSES satellite, which is to be sent into orbit in 2016. Italy's involvement in the project will focus on the development of a high-precision detector to measure the electrons that enter the atmosphere from the Van Allen belts, in order to subject to rigorous scientific scrutiny the mechanisms that connect the Earth and its internal dynamics to the plasma of elementary particles that surrounds it — the aim being to develop new ways of monitoring seismic activity from space.

Can the Commission answer the following questions in the light of these considerations:

1. Is the project receiving European funding under the Horizon 2020 programme, or funds under the old Seventh Framework Programme 2007-2013?
2. Has the EU funded other projects focusing on space geodesy, including via scientific collaboration programmes involving European and non-European countries within the context of the work of the European Space Agency?

**Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission**

(3 July 2014)

1. The results of the first call of Horizon 2020 are still being processed. As for FP7, there are specific projects related to the scientific subject in the frame of GEO <sup>(1)</sup> and Copernicus. Under the FP7's space theme there were two dedicated earthquake precursors projects, Pre-Earthquakes and SEMEP related to, the emergency services of Copernicus. Under the FP7 environment theme dedicated projects (Medsuv, Marsites, Futurvolc) supporting the GEO Supersites initiative and aiming at an integrated approach using space and in-situ data for long term monitoring were initiated and are still on-going..
2. The EU has not funded any space geodesy mission. Nevertheless, there is a range of projects which are related in a wider sense to the scientific topic such as the Copernicus emergency services and the geohazard projects performed in the context of the GEO supersites initiative. Complementary information is provided by the recently launched Sentinel-1 mission, former ERS-1, ERS-2 and Envisat, and also the upcoming Sentinel-2 and Sentinel-3 missions. ESA's space assets, funded by Member States, such as the Earth Explorer GOCE and SWARM missions also provide relevant information. The SWARM mission, dedicated to the observation and monitoring of the magnetic field, also carries an electric field sensor which might be used addressing the specific scientific questions of monitoring high energy pre-seismic bursts. The French DEMETER mission which ceased operation in 2010 had the ionospheric disturbances of pre- and post-seismic events as dedicated mission objectives. The exploitation of data from these missions could, at least in principle, be included in future calls of Horizon 2020.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Group on Earth Observations — For further information please consult: <http://www.earthobservations.org/index.shtml>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005538/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Discariche marine: sostanze inquinanti sulle nostre tavole

La più grande discarica marina esistente — come risaputo — si concentra, in un gioco di correnti, nel Pacifico: un vero e proprio continente di plastica si erge dalle acque mettendo a repentaglio la vita delle specie appartenenti all'ecosistema in questione. Del resto, l'inquinamento marino, oltre a sconvolgere i delicati equilibri dei differenti ecosistemi, comporta pesanti conseguenze per l'uomo e per la sua salute.

Senza bisogno di «guardare lontano», lo stesso livello di inquinamento del Mediterraneo — con alte concentrazioni di mercurio, nonché di altre sostanze ugualmente nocive — induce a riflettere sulla sicurezza delle nostre tavole e sui quantitativi di sostanze chimiche che quotidianamente ingeriamo attraverso il pescato.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione indicare le misure messe in atto dall'UE per monitorare l'inquinamento marittimo e controllare le attività e le azioni alla base dello stesso?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione  
(19 giugno 2014)**

La direttiva quadro sulla strategia per l'ambiente marino <sup>(1)</sup> stabilisce l'obiettivo di conseguire o mantenere un «buono stato ecologico» per tutte le acque marine dell'UE entro il 2020 e di garantire, tra l'altro, che i rifiuti non provochino danni all'ambiente marino e che i contaminanti presenti nei pesci e nei frutti di mare destinati al consumo umano non eccedano i livelli stabiliti <sup>(2)</sup>. A tal fine, gli Stati membri sono tenuti a trasmettere alla Commissione, entro il 15 ottobre 2014, un programma dettagliato di monitoraggio dell'ambiente marino. Sotto la guida del Centro comune di ricerca della Commissione europea sono stati elaborati orientamenti tecnici in materia di monitoraggio dei rifiuti marini al fine di facilitare tale processo <sup>(3)</sup>.

Inoltre, sulla base di un invito a presentare proposte nell'ambito del 7° programma d'azione per l'ambiente, la Commissione sta considerando la possibilità di stabilire un obiettivo principale di riduzione dei rifiuti marini a livello dell'UE. Tale iniziativa, collegata alla futura revisione della politica in materia di rifiuti, andrà ad integrare la recente proposta della Commissione volta a ridurre il consumo di sacchetti di plastica monouso, un'altra importante fonte di rifiuti marini.

Per quanto concerne l'inquinamento delle risorse ittiche, il progetto ECsafeSEAFOOD <sup>(4)</sup>, finanziato dal 7° programma quadro dell'UE, ha lo scopo di valutare i problemi di sicurezza alimentare dovuti alla presenza di contaminanti nei prodotti ittici in seguito a contaminazione ambientale. Un ruolo importante svolgono inoltre i progetti BIOCLEAN <sup>(5)</sup>, CLEANSEA <sup>(6)</sup> e PERSEUS <sup>(7)</sup>, finanziati dalla Commissione. Infine, il primo invito a presentare proposte di ricerca nell'ambito della priorità «Crescita blu» del programma Orizzonte 2020 comprende un tema che riguarda lo sviluppo di nuove tecnologie per immagini che permettano un migliore monitoraggio dei rifiuti marini.

<sup>(1)</sup> 2008/56/CE.

<sup>(2)</sup> Si veda allegato I, descrittori 9 (contaminanti nei frutti di mare) e 10 (rifiuti marini).

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/111111111/30681>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.ecsafeseafood.eu/ecsafeseafood-project/ecsafeseafood-overview>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.biocleanproject.eu/>

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://www.cleansea-project.eu/drupal/index.php>

<sup>(7)</sup> <http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005538/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Marine waste: pollutants on our tables

The largest marine rubbish dump in existence, as is well known, has been built up in the Pacific by the action of various currents: a genuine continent of plastic arises from the water, endangering the lives of the species native to the ecosystem in question. Besides that, apart from upsetting the delicate balance of the various ecosystems, marine pollution leads to serious consequences for human health.

With no need to look further afield, the same level of pollution in the Mediterranean, with high concentrations of mercury and other, equally harmful substances, leads us to reflect on food safety and on the quantities of chemical substances which we consume every day through fish.

In view of the above, can the Commission indicate the measures implemented by the EU to monitor marine pollution and control the activities and actions causing it?

**Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission**

(19 June 2014)

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive <sup>(1)</sup> sets the goal of achieving or maintaining 'Good Environmental Status' for all EU marine waters by 2020, including to ensure that litter does not cause harm to the marine environment, and that contaminants in seafood for human consumption do not exceed established levels <sup>(2)</sup>. To this end, Member States must submit to the Commission, by 15 October 2014, a detailed marine monitoring programme. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has led the development of technical guidance on marine litter monitoring to facilitate this process <sup>(3)</sup>.

In addition, and building on a call in the 7th Environment Action Programme, the Commission is considering an EU-wide headline reduction target for marine litter. This will be linked to the forthcoming review of waste policy, and will complement the recent Commission proposal aimed at reducing the consumption of single-use plastic bags, also a significant source of marine litter.

In relation to pollution in fish, the ECsafeSeafood project, <sup>(4)</sup> funded through the EU's 7th Framework Programme, aims to assess food safety issues related to contaminants in seafood as a result of environmental contamination. The Bioclean <sup>(5)</sup>, Cleansea <sup>(6)</sup> and Perseus <sup>(7)</sup> projects, funded by the Commission, are also relevant, while the first Horizon 2020 'Blue Growth' call for research proposals includes a topic relating to the development of novel imaging technology for better marine litter monitoring.

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<sup>(1)</sup> 2008/56/EC.

<sup>(2)</sup> See Annex I, descriptors 9 (contaminants in seafood) and 10 (marine litter).

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/111111111/30681>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.ecsafeseafood.eu/ecsafeseafood-project/ecsafeseafood-overview>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.biocleanproject.eu/>

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://www.cleansea-project.eu/drupal/index.php>

<sup>(7)</sup> <http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005539/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Nuovi strumenti per la diagnosi tumorale

Da recenti notizie si apprende come divenga possibile diagnosticare una patologia tumorale da un semplice prelievo sanguigno. Infatti, studi condotti da un'università statunitense dimostrano l'efficacia della tecnica in questione, ultrasensibile e capace di rilevare, all'interno del tessuto ematico, molecole di DNA malato — e modificato — sprigionate dalle cellule tumorali morenti.

Pertanto, il nuovo metodo permette di acquisire ulteriori informazioni in relazione al volume del tumore e di emettere in tal modo le relative prognosi.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione fornire informazioni relative allo stato dell'arte della ricerca europea nei riguardi della diagnostica, in particolar modo per le neoplasie?

**Risposta di Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione**

(10 giugno 2014)

La Commissione è a conoscenza dello studio menzionato dall'onorevole deputato che è stato pubblicato nella rivista scientifica «Science Translational medicine» <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>.

La Commissione ha finanziato la ricerca sulla diagnosi dei tumori per l'intera durata del Settimo programma quadro per le attività di ricerca, sviluppo tecnologico e dimostrazione (7° PQ, 2007-2013). Circa 355 milioni di euro sono stati destinati alla diagnosi precoce, alla prognosi e alle strategie di cura personalizzate per i pazienti. Tra questi si annoverano i progetti sulle cellule tumorali circolanti (CTC) e/o il DNA dei tumori circolanti, compreso il loro utilizzo nella diagnosi e nella prognosi precoci e i miglioramenti tecnologici concernenti il loro rilevamento (oltre 40 milioni di EUR).

Nell'ambito del progetto CareMore <sup>(3)</sup> si sta mettendo a punto un sistema per la caratterizzazione delle cellule tumorali circolanti al fine di orientare le decisioni di cura per le donne con tumore al seno metastatico. Il progetto CTCTRAP si incentra su tecnologie nuove e perfezionate per isolare e caratterizzare le cellule tumorali circolanti in modo da poter effettuare una biopsia liquida in tempo reale dei pazienti con metastasi <sup>(4)</sup>.

Orizzonte 2020, il programma dell'UE per la ricerca e l'innovazione (2014-2020) <sup>(5)</sup>, offre opportunità di finanziamento alla ricerca nel settore dei tumori, compresa la ricerca sullo screening e la diagnosi precoce, nell'ambito della sfida per la società «Salute, cambiamento demografico e benessere». Il bando del 2014, attualmente in fase di valutazione, conteneva il tema «Sviluppo di nuovi strumenti e tecnologie diagnostici: strumenti in vitro, saggi e piattaforme.» Le informazioni su ulteriori possibilità di finanziamento possono essere ottenute attraverso il portale dedicato alla ricerca e all'innovazione <sup>(6)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Bettgowda C et al. Sci Transl Med. 2014 doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.3007094.

<sup>(2)</sup> Genome Advance of the Month: Circulating tumor DNA: A new generation of cancer biomarkers, 20 marzo 2014, <http://www.genome.gov/27556716>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://www.caremorectc.eu/>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.utwente.nl/tnw/ctctrap/>

<sup>(5)</sup> COM(2011) 809 definitivo del 30.11.2011.

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005539/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* New tools for diagnosing tumours

It has recently been revealed that it is now possible to diagnose cancer by means of a simple blood sample. Indeed, studies carried out by a US university show the effectiveness of the technique in question, which is highly sensitive and can reveal, within the blood tissue, molecules of diseased and modified DNA released by dying tumour cells.

In addition, the new method enables further information to be obtained on the size of the tumour and the appropriate prognosis to be made.

In view of the above, can the Commission provide any information regarding the state of the art in European research into diagnostics, particularly as regards cancer?

**Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission**

(10 June 2014)

The Commission is aware of the study referred to by the Honourable Member, which was published in the scientific journal *Science Translational Medicine* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Commission has funded research on cancer diagnostics throughout the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013). About EUR 355 million were devoted to early diagnosis, prognosis, and personalised treatment strategies for patients. This comprised projects on circulating tumour cells (CTC) and/or circulating tumour DNA, including their use in early diagnosis and prognosis and technological improvements concerning their detection (for over EUR 40 million).

The CareMore <sup>(3)</sup> project is developing a system for the characterisation of circulating tumour cells in order to guide treatment decisions for women with metastatic breast cancer; the Cctrap <sup>(4)</sup> project focuses on new and improved technologies to isolate and characterise CTCs that will enable a real-time liquid biopsy for patients with metastatic cancer.

Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) <sup>(5)</sup>, provides funding opportunities for research on cancer, including research on screening and early diagnosis, through the 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing' societal challenge. The 2014 call, now under evaluation, included the topic 'Development of new diagnostic tools and technologies: in vitro devices, assays and platforms'. Information on further funding opportunities can be obtained through the Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(6)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Bettgowda C et al. *Sci Transl Med*. 2014 doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.3007094.

<sup>(2)</sup> Genome Advance of the Month: Circulating tumor DNA: A new generation of cancer biomarkers, March 20, 2014, <http://www.genome.gov/27556716>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://www.caremorectc.eu/>

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.utwente.nl/tnw/ctctrap/>

<sup>(5)</sup> COM(2011) 809, 30.11.2011.

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005540/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Cosmesi sicura

«Il cosmetico non è solo un belletto: entra a contatto con pelle, capelli, mucose»; questo è quanto affermano alcuni responsabili di associazioni rappresentative del settore — in Italia — evidenziando l'importanza di un utilizzo consapevole dei prodotti in questione.

È comprensibile, quindi, l'utilità di una app — realizzata dalle stesse associazioni di cui sopra — che fornisce informazioni in merito ai prodotti, relativamente a termini impiegati (ad esempio, presenti sulla confezione) e in ordine al corretto uso dei cosmetici.

In considerazione di quanto esposto, si chiede alla Commissione:

1. Può fornire indicazioni in merito alle misure predisposte dall'UE per la sicurezza nel campo della cosmetica, in particolar modo, per una comunicazione trasparente?
2. Può fornire informazioni relative a iniziative analoghe in altri contesti europei?

**Risposta di Neven Mimica a nome della Commissione**

(12 giugno 2014)

Conformemente al regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009 <sup>(1)</sup> i cosmetici immessi sul mercato devono essere sicuri. I fabbricanti, gli importatori o, in certe circostanze, i distributori sono responsabili della sicurezza di questi prodotti <sup>(2)</sup>. Essi devono conservare una scheda informativa sul prodotto agevolmente accessibile in formato elettronico o altro a disposizione dell'autorità competente dello Stato membro in cui la scheda è conservata all'indirizzo indicato sull'etichetta <sup>(3)</sup>.

La trasparenza nella comunicazione ai consumatori è assicurata innanzitutto dall'etichetta che deve recare, in caratteri indelebili, leggibili e visibili, informazioni fondamentali in particolare il nome e l'indirizzo della persona responsabile, il contenuto nominale, la data di durata minima, gli avvertimenti e le precauzioni d'uso, il numero di lotto, la funzione del prodotto e l'elenco degli ingredienti <sup>(4)</sup>.

La legislazione prescrive che per l'etichettatura, l'immissione sul mercato e la pubblicità dei cosmetici non si usino testi, nomi, marchi commerciali, immagini e segni figurativi o d'altro genere tali da suggerire che questi prodotti posseggano caratteristiche e funzioni che in realtà non hanno <sup>(5)</sup>. Per assicurare la corretta applicazione di queste regole la Commissione ha adottato il regolamento (UE) n. 655/2013 <sup>(6)</sup> che stabilisce i criteri comuni per la giustificazione delle dichiarazioni utilizzate in relazione ai prodotti cosmetici.

La Commissione non è a conoscenza di un software specifico («app») che dovrebbe rispettare le regole citate quale menzionato dall'Onorevole deputato.

<sup>(1)</sup> GUL 342 del 22.12.2009, pag. 59.

<sup>(2)</sup> Art. 4 del regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009.

<sup>(3)</sup> Art. 11 del regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009.

<sup>(4)</sup> Art. 19 del regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009.

<sup>(5)</sup> Art. 20 del regolamento (CE) n. 1223/2009.

<sup>(6)</sup> GUL 190 dell'11.7.2013, pag. 31.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005540/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Safe cosmetics

'Cosmetics are not just a bit of make-up: they come into contact with skin, hair and mucous membranes.' This is the message from several people high up in associations representing the industry in Italy, highlighting the importance of using cosmetics with care.

This explains the usefulness of an app — produced by these same cosmetics associations — that provides product information concerning the correct use of cosmetics and explaining the terms used (for example, on packaging).

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Can the Commission provide information on the measures taken by the EU to ensure safety and, in particular, transparent communication as regards the use of cosmetics?
2. Can the Commission provide information on any similar schemes in other European countries?

**Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission**

(12 June 2014)

According to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 <sup>(1)</sup>, cosmetic products which are placed on the market must be safe. The manufacturers, importers or, under certain circumstances, the distributors, are responsible for the safety of these products <sup>(2)</sup>. They must keep a product information file readily accessible in electronic or other format to the competent authority of the Member State in which the file is kept at the address indicated on the label <sup>(3)</sup>.

Transparent communication to the consumer is ensured first of all through the labelling which must bear, in indelible, easily legible and visible lettering, key information in particular the name and address of the responsible person, the nominal content, the date of minimum durability, warnings and precautions of use, the batch number, the function of the product and the ingredients list <sup>(4)</sup>.

The legislation requires that in the labelling, making available on the market and advertising of cosmetic products, text, names, trademarks, pictures and figurative or other signs shall not be used to imply that these products have characteristics or functions which they do not have <sup>(5)</sup>. In order to ensure correct application of these rules, the Commission adopted Regulation (EU) No 655/2013 <sup>(6)</sup> laying down common criteria for the justification of claims used in relation to cosmetic products.

The Commission is not aware of specific software ('apps') as referred to by the Honourable Member which would have to respect abovementioned rules.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJL 342, 22.12.2009, p. 59.

<sup>(2)</sup> Art. 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

<sup>(3)</sup> Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

<sup>(4)</sup> Art. 19 of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

<sup>(5)</sup> Art. 20 of Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

<sup>(6)</sup> OJL 190, 11.7.2013, p. 31.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005541/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Cucina e salute

Un progetto pilota, nato dalla collaborazione fra un'università italiana e un importante istituto ospedaliero, cerca di affrontare un problema che, al di là della sua apparente ordinarietà, ha in realtà implicazioni non trascurabili per il benessere dei ricoverati nella struttura di cui sopra.

In sostanza, a fronte della cosiddetta «malnutrizione ospedaliera» (causata dallo scarso gradimento della cucina di corsia da parte dei pazienti) il progetto si propone di personalizzare l'offerta ristorativa dell'ospedale in questione avvalendosi della competenza di uno chef pluristellato.

L'iniziativa contribuisce peraltro — nel caso di specie — a ridurre gli sprechi e a razionalizzare le spese sanitarie nonché a migliorare il regime alimentare — e il benessere — dei cittadini assistiti.

Alla luce di quanto esposto si chiede alla Commissione di:

1. fornire dati relativi alla malnutrizione ospedaliera nel contesto europeo;
2. individuare analoghi progetti — in Europa — dai quali desumere eventualmente buone pratiche di cui favorire la diffusione.

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(17 giugno 2014)

La Commissione non raccoglie dati sulla malnutrizione ospedaliera in Europa. Le ricerche esistenti suggeriscono tuttavia che il 46 % del totale dei pazienti ospedalizzati è malnutrito al momento dell'ammissione. Tale percentuale aumenta al 50 % per i pazienti anziani <sup>(1)</sup>.

La malnutrizione è una causa potenziale di fragilità e le persone malnutrite fragili hanno peggiori esiti sanitari, restano ricoverate più a lungo e hanno maggior necessità di cure a lungo termine. I costi sanitari annui associati alla malnutrizione sono stimati a 170 miliardi di EUR nell'intera Europa <sup>(2)</sup>.

La Commissione è attiva nel contrastare la malnutrizione delle persone anziane. Esistono esempi di formulazione e diffusione delle pratiche esemplari, rappresentati da iniziative quali il partenariato europeo per l'innovazione finalizzato all'invecchiamento attivo e in buona salute e l'imminente azione preparatoria «Alimentazione sana: i primi anni e l'invecchiamento della popolazione».

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<sup>(1)</sup> The Magnitude of the Problem of Malnutrition in Europe (Jens Kondrup, Janice M. Sorensen 2009)./Four out of ten hospitalized patients in Europe are malnourished (Pichard 2005, Wait 2005)./The Prague Declaration: A call for action to fight malnutrition in Europe Sept 2007./A quarter of patients in hospitals are at risk of under-nutrition or already malnourished (Elias and Russell, 2009).

<sup>(2)</sup> Ljungqvist O, De Man F. Under nutrition — a major health problem in Europe. Nutr Hosp 2009; 24 (3): 368-370.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005541/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Food for health

A pilot scheme, launched collaboratively by an Italian university and a major hospital, is seeking to tackle a problem that, despite its apparent banality, actually has significant implications for the well-being of patients in the hospital concerned.

In brief, the scheme's aim is to tackle 'hospital malnutrition' (caused by patients' dislike of the run-of-the-mill food they are given) by offering personalised menus, with the help of a multi-starred chef.

The scheme is also helping, in this specific case, to reduce waste and rationalise expenditure, whilst also improving the diet — and well-being — of the patients concerned.

Can the Commission answer the following questions in the light of the above:

1. Can the Commission provide figures on hospital malnutrition in Europe?
2. Can the Commission provide information on any other similar schemes in Europe, which could be used as a basis for identifying good practices which could then be promoted?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(17 June 2014)

The Commission does not collect data on malnutrition in hospitals in Europe. Nevertheless, existing research suggests that 46% of all hospitalised patients are malnourished on admission. This figure rises to over 50% among older patients <sup>(1)</sup>.

Malnutrition is a potential contributor to frailty, and malnourished frail people have poorer health outcomes, spend longer time in hospitals and need more long-term care. The annual healthcare costs associated with malnutrition are estimated at EUR 170 billion across Europe <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Commission is addressing the issue of malnutrition in the elderly population. Initiatives such as the European Innovation Partnership in Active and Healthy Ageing and the forthcoming Preparatory Action 'Healthy Diet: early years and ageing population' are examples of how good practice is being developed and disseminated.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The Magnitude of the Problem of Malnutrition in Europe (Jens Kondrup, Janice M. Sorensen 2009) — Four out of ten hospitalized patients in Europe are malnourished (Pichard 2005, Wait 2005) — The Prague Declaration: A call for action to fight malnutrition in Europe Sept 2007 — A quarter of patients in hospitals are at risk of under-nutrition or already malnourished (Elias and Russell, 2009).

<sup>(2)</sup> Ljungqvist O, De Man F. Under nutrition — a major health problem in Europe. *Nutr Hosp* 2009; 24 (3): 368-370.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005542/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Composto biologico per le trasfusioni

Una notizia dell'ultima settimana focalizza l'attenzione su un nuovo ritrovato, nato dagli studi congiunti di due università — una italiana ed una sudamericana — e di alcune Biotech statunitensi.

Trattasi della creazione di un composto biologico, sostitutivo del sangue, derivato dall'emoglobina e prodotto in laboratorio. Lo stesso troverebbe impiego nei casi trasfusionali di maggiore urgenza e, peraltro, andrebbe a produrre un effetto rinforzante, terapeutico, per le cellule traumatizzate dagli effetti della patologia per la cura della quale viene richiesta la trasfusione.

A ben vedere, lo studio di cui si fa menzione porta con sé delle applicazioni di gran rilievo; specie per determinate categorie di pazienti, assistiti.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione precisare quanto segue:

1. è a conoscenza del nuovo prodotto?
2. Ritiene possa divenire di impiego diffuso nel prossimo futuro in Europa, anche alla luce di carenze registrate in alcuni Stati membri in termini di disponibilità di sacche sanguigne per trasfusioni d'urgenza?

**Risposta di Tonio Borg a nome della Commissione**

(16 giugno 2014)

La Commissione è a conoscenza delle iniziative di ricerca cui fa riferimento l'onorevole deputato che hanno evidenziato il potenziale ruolo dei «composti organici» per trasfusioni come mezzo per affrontare eventuali rischi connessi con le trasfusioni e le carenze di sangue. Da molti anni si effettuano ricerche per sviluppare sostituti ematici.

Nell'ambito del sesto programma quadro 2002-2006: Scienze della vita, genomica e biotecnologie per la salute <sup>(1)</sup>, l'UE ha finanziato la ricerca sui sostituti ematici nell'ambito delle sue priorità e in particolare il progetto «Genomica e sostituti ematici per l'Europa del XXI secolo» (EURO BLOOD SUBSTITUTES) con un contributo dell'UE di 2 514 milioni di euro.

Orizzonte 2020, il programma quadro per la ricerca e l'innovazione (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, offrirà opportunità di finanziare la ricerca e contribuire all'innovazione. Le informazioni sulle possibilità di finanziamento attuali si possono ottenere consultando il portale dedicato alla ricerca e all'innovazione <sup>(3)</sup>.

È importante assicurare che tali sostituti ematici soddisfino le prescrizioni in materia di qualità e di sicurezza per i pazienti prima di poter essere utilizzati dalla comunità medica, e siano valutati positivamente dalle autorità competenti all'interno dell'Unione europea.

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/programme/acronym/FP6-LIFESCIHEALTH\\_it.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/programme/acronym/FP6-LIFESCIHEALTH_it.html)

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(2011) 809 del 30/11/2011.

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=dg>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005542/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Organic compound for transfusions

In the last week, it has been reported that a joint research project carried out by two universities (one Italian, the other South American) and several US-based biotech centres has led to a new discovery being made.

More specifically, an organic compound derived from haemoglobin and intended to act as a blood substitute has been created in a laboratory. This compound could one day be used in emergency transfusions, and could also serve to heal and strengthen cells that have been damaged by the effects of the illness that the transfusion is intended to treat.

On closer inspection, it appears that the abovementioned research project could lead to a number of highly beneficial applications, especially for certain types of patients.

1. Is the Commission aware of this new product?
2. Does it believe that this product could soon be used throughout Europe, especially in light of the shortages in blood reserves for emergency transfusions that have been recorded by some Member States?

**Answer given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission**

(16 June 2014)

The Commission is aware of the research efforts referred to by the Honourable Member pointing to the potential role of 'organic compounds' for transfusions as a means to address possible risks associated with transfusions and blood shortages. Research has been undertaken since many years to develop blood substitutes.

Through the EU Sixth Framework Programme for Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health 2002-2006 <sup>(1)</sup>, the EU has financed research on blood substitutes within its priorities. In particular, the EU financed the project 'Genomics and Blood Substitutes for 21st Century Europe' (Euro Blood Substitutes) with an EU contribution of EUR 2 514 million.

Horizon 2020, the framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) <sup>(2)</sup>, will offer opportunities to finance research and contribute to innovation. Information on current funding opportunities can be obtained through the Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(3)</sup>.

It is important to ensure that any such blood substitutes meet safety and quality requirements for patients before they can be used by the medical community, and are positively assessed by the relevant authorities within the European Union.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/programme/acronym/FP6-LIFESCIHEALTH\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/programme/acronym/FP6-LIFESCIHEALTH_en.html)

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(2011) 809, 30.11.2011.

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=dg>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005543/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Sviluppo nel campo degli emostatici

Negli Stati Uniti, la Food and Drug Administration ha approvato un nuovo prodotto che potrebbe avere importanti applicazioni in campo medico: si tratta di piccole di piccole spugne estensibili da iniettare nelle ferite prodotte su parti del corpo dove non sia possibile applicare un laccio emostatico (inguine, spalla) in modo da fermare l'emorragia. Il loro effetto durerebbe fino a 4 ore, dando così il tempo al personale medico di intervenire. Lo strumento consiste in tre applicatori simili a una siringa che contengono 92 spugne di cellulosa compressa, coperte da un rivestimento assorbente, le quali si espandono e si gonfiano fino a riempire la cavità della ferita dopo soli 20 secondi dal contatto con l'acqua del sangue o i fluidi corporei. Le spugne hanno ognuna un diametro di 9,8 millimetri e un'altezza di 4-5 millimetri e possono assorbire 3 millilitri di sangue o fluidi corporei: un applicatore con 92 spugne può quindi assorbire circa 300 millilitri di fluidi. Per facilitare la rimozione delle spugne, queste sono dotate di un marcatore visibile ai raggi X.

L'applicazione in ambito militare è senza dubbio quella più immediata a cui pensare, se si considera che spesso le morti in combattimento sono causate da emorragie non letali che però portano al dissanguamento se non trattate in breve tempo, ma il nuovo prodotto potrebbe essere usato in altri casi, ad esempio per soccorrere vittime di disastri ambientali.

In merito a questo nuovo prodotto, la Commissione:

1. è a conoscenza della scoperta?
2. Ritiene che un simile prodotto possa essere immesso sul mercato interno? Occorre che superi test specifici a tal fine?

**Risposta di Neven Mimica a nome della Commissione**

(16 giugno 2014)

1. La Commissione non dispone di informazioni sull'approvazione, negli Stati Uniti, del nuovo prodotto menzionato dall'Onorevole deputato e lo ringrazia per aver attirato la sua attenzione su questo caso particolare.
2. L'immissione sul mercato di dispositivi medici rientra nella responsabilità degli Stati membri come stabilito dalla legislazione sui dispositivi medici<sup>(1)</sup>. In termini generali, la procedura di immissione di tali prodotti sul mercato europeo comprende l'apposizione di un marchio CE di conformità. Soltanto i dispositivi che soddisfano i requisiti contenuti nelle tre direttive sui dispositivi medici possono recare il marchio CE. Le procedure di valutazione di conformità sono definite conformemente al livello di rischio dei dispositivi. Per i dispositivi medici ad alto rischio, il rilascio del marchio CE è subordinato al coinvolgimento di un organismo notificato. Per ulteriori dettagli su tale procedura la Commissione rinvia l'Onorevole deputato alle informazioni contenute nella pertinente pagina web della Direzione generale Salute e consumatori<sup>(2)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Direttiva 90/385/CEE del Consiglio, del 20 giugno 1990, per il ravvicinamento delle legislazioni degli Stati membri relative ai dispositivi medici impiantabili attivi (GU L 189 del 20.7.1990); direttiva 93/42/CEE del Consiglio, del 14 giugno 1993, concernente i dispositivi medici (GU L 169 del 12.7.1993.); direttiva 98/79/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 27 ottobre 1998, relativa ai dispositivi medico-diagnostici in vitro (GU L 331 del 7.12.1998).

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/medical-devices/faq/market\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/medical-devices/faq/market_en.htm)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005543/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Developments in the field of haemostatics

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new product which could have important applications in the medical field: small, expandable sponges which can be injected into wounds caused to parts of the body where it is not possible to apply a tourniquet (groin, back) to stop bleeding. They would be effective for up to 4 hours, thereby giving medical staff time to act. The instrument consists of three applicators similar to a syringe which contain 92 compressed cellulose sponges with an absorbent coating, which expand and swell to fill the wound cavity after being in contact with water from blood or bodily fluids for only 20 seconds. Each sponge has a diameter of 9.8 millimetres and a height of 4-5 millimetres, and can absorb 3 millilitres of blood or bodily fluids; an applicator with 92 sponges can therefore absorb approximately 300 millilitres of fluid. For ease of removal of the sponges, they contain a marker visible via X-ray.

The application to the military environment is without doubt the one which immediately comes to mind, if we consider that deaths in combat are often caused by non-lethal haemorrhages which however lead to blood loss if not treated rapidly, but the new product could be used in other situations, for example, to treat victims of environmental disasters.

In relation to this new product,

1. Is the Commission aware of the discovery?
2. Does it consider that a similar product could be launched on the internal market? Would it be required to pass any specific tests for this purpose?

**Answer given by Mr Mimica on behalf of the Commission**

(16 June 2014)

1. The Commission has no information on the approval in the United States of the new product referred to by the Honourable Member and thanks him for drawing the attention to this particular case.
2. The placing on the market of medical devices falls within the responsibility of the Member States as provided for by the legislation on medical devices<sup>(1)</sup>. In general terms, the process for placing such products on the European market includes the affixing of a CE marking of conformity. Only the devices which meet the requirements contained in the three directives on medical devices may bear the CE marking. The conformity assessment procedures are defined in accordance with the level of risk of the devices. For medical devices of higher risks, a notified body must be involved prior to the CE marking. For more details concerning this process, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the information contained on the relevant webpage of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers<sup>(2)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Council Directive 90/385/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to active implantable medical devices (OJ L 189, 20.7.1990); Council Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices (OJ L 169, 12.7.1993); Directive 98/79/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices (OJ L 331, 7.12.1998).

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/medical-devices/faq/market\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/medical-devices/faq/market_en.htm)



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005544/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Chemiofarmaco non invasivo

Importanti sperimentazioni portate avanti da un'università americana farebbero ben sperare in merito a nuovi approcci terapeutici — meno invasivi — per le malattie di natura oncologica.

La nuova metodologia prevede l'impiego di nanosfere (nanopalloncini), deputate all'accoglimento del chemiofarmaco; quest'ultimo viene «sparato» sulle cellule tumorali mediante laser. In tal modo, si agisce esclusivamente sulle cellule interessate preservando i tessuti sani.

Secondo le stime dell'università responsabile dello studio illustrato, le applicazioni della nuova terapia sarebbero possibili entro un arco di tempo di cinque anni.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione:

1. fornire informazioni relativamente allo stato dell'arte della ricerca europea in merito a nuove prassi terapeutiche, non invasive, per la cura delle neoplasie;
2. fornire indicazioni in ordine a studi che rilevino l'accesso, in Europa, alle strutture terapeutiche deputate all'erogazione del trattamento chemioterapeutico?

**Risposta di Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione**

(17 giugno 2014)

La Commissione è a conoscenza dello studio menzionato dall'onorevole deputato che è stato pubblicato nella rivista scientifica *Small* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>.

1. Nell'ambito del Settimo programma quadro di attività di ricerca, sviluppo tecnologico e dimostrazione (7° PQ, 2007-2013) <sup>(3)</sup> sono stati assegnati circa 270 milioni di euro alla ricerca contro il cancro.

In particolare sono stati assegnati 78 milioni di euro a favore della ricerca di frontiera e collaborativa sui trattamenti non invasivi. Citiamo tra gli esempi: THERAGLIO <sup>(4)</sup> (*Microbubble driven multimodal imaging and theranostics for gliomas*), NANO3T <sup>(5)</sup> (*Biofunctionalized metal and magnetic nanoparticles for targeted tumour therapy*) e NANOPHOTO <sup>(6)</sup> (*Targeted Nanosystems for improving photodynamic therapy and diagnosis of cancer*).

Orizzonte 2020, il programma quadro di ricerca e innovazione (2014-2020) <sup>(7)</sup>, offre la possibilità di sostenere la ricerca sulle terapie contro il cancro nel quadro dell'obiettivo «Salute, cambiamento demografico e benessere», contenuto nella priorità «Sfide per la società». Ulteriori informazioni sono reperibili sul portale «Research and Innovation Participant» <sup>(8)</sup>.

2. La Commissione non dispone di dati su eventuali indagini effettuate nell'Unione europea in materia di accesso alle strutture di cura in cui si erogano trattamenti chemioterapeutici.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24678053>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://www.rdmag.com/news/2014/02/tissue-penetrating-light-release-chemotherapy-inside-cancer-cells>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html)

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/109351\\_it.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/109351_it.html)

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/87780\\_it.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/87780_it.html)

<sup>(6)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/86689\\_it.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/86689_it.html)

<sup>(7)</sup> COM(2011) 809 del 30.11.2011.

<sup>(8)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005544/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Non-invasive chemotherapy drug

Major experiments carried out by an American university have raised hopes that new, less invasive therapies for cancer may be on the horizon.

The new method involves the use of nanospheres (nanoparticles) that release chemotherapy drugs, which are 'shot' on to the cancer cells by laser. This means that only the cells concerned are affected, while healthy tissue is preserved.

According to estimates by the university which led the study, the new therapy could be applied within five years.

Can the Commission therefore:

1. provide information on the latest developments in European research on new, non-invasive therapeutic procedures for the treatment of cancer;
2. say whether any surveys have been carried out (giving the relevant details) on access in Europe to chemotherapy drug treatment facilities?

**Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission**

(17 June 2014)

The Commission is aware of the study referred to by the Honourable Member, which was published in the scientific journal *Small* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>.

1. The Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7, 2007-2013) <sup>(3)</sup> made available about EUR 270 million in support of research on the treatment of cancer.

More specifically, EUR 78 million was made available in support of frontier and collaborative research on non-invasive treatments. Examples include: Theraglio <sup>(4)</sup> (Microbubble driven multimodal imaging and theranostics for gliomas), NANO3T <sup>(5)</sup> (Biofunctionalized metal and magnetic nanoparticles for targeted tumour therapy) and Nanophoto <sup>(6)</sup> (Targeted Nanosystems for improving photodynamic therapy and diagnosis of cancer).

Horizon 2020, the framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) <sup>(7)</sup>, provides opportunities to support research on cancer through the 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing' societal challenge. More information can be found through the Research and Innovation Participant Portal <sup>(8)</sup>.

2. The Commission does not have at its disposal data on surveys carried out in the European Union on access to chemotherapy drug treatment facilities.

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24678053>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://www.rdmag.com/news/2014/02/tissue-penetrating-light-release-chemotherapy-inside-cancer-cells>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html)

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/109351\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/109351_en.html)

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/87780\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/87780_en.html)

<sup>(6)</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/86689\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/86689_en.html)

<sup>(7)</sup> COM(2011) 809, 30.11.2011.

<sup>(8)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005545/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Efficacia dei nuovi dispositivi luminosi di attraversamento pedonale

Per migliorare la sicurezza dei pedoni su strada, in particolare nelle ore notturne, è stato sviluppato negli ultimi anni un nuovo dispositivo luminoso: si tratta di una serie di led luminosi inseriti in corrispondenza di un attraversamento pedonale, per migliorarne la visibilità alle autovetture in avvicinamento: nello specifico, alcuni sensori reagiscono al passaggio dei pedoni attivando i led che, garantendo una migliore illuminazione dal basso, incrementano del 70 % la visibilità dell'attraversamento, fino a 150 metri di distanza. Il sistema è già in uso in alcune aree urbane di diversi comuni italiani, ma al momento non è possibile disporre di dati completi in merito all'incidenza del nuovo dispositivo sulla casistica di incidenti stradali.

In merito a questo genere di dispositivi, può la Commissione:

1. Chiarire se questo genere di dispositivo viene utilizzato anche in altri Stati membri?
2. Diffondere dati in merito all'efficacia del dispositivo ai fini della riduzione degli incidenti stradali di cui sono vittime i pedoni presso gli attraversamenti pedonali?

**Risposta di Siim Kallas a nome della Commissione**

(4 giugno 2014)

1. Alla Commissione risulta che dispositivi di questo genere siano in uso anche in alcuni altri Stati membri, ma la loro installazione è di competenza locale, regionale o nazionale. Non esistono informazioni sistematiche o quantitative su questi dispositivi.
2. Dal momento che non esistono statistiche o studi sistematici su questi dispositivi la Commissione non può valutarne l'impatto sulla sicurezza stradale. Tuttavia, la Commissione rileva che il 70 % dell'insieme degli incidenti stradali avviene nelle zone urbane, mentre solo il 40 % di tutti gli incidenti mortali si verifica nelle aree urbane. In più di un terzo degli incidenti mortali urbani le vittime sono dei pedoni e la metà degli incidenti mortali che coinvolgono pedoni avviene in situazioni di scarsa luminosità. Tenuto conto del fatto che vi sono più pedoni che attraversano le strade durante il giorno, se ne deduce che esiste un rischio maggiore di incidenti quando l'attraversamento dei pedoni avviene in situazioni di scarsa luminosità. Pertanto, è probabile che le misure destinate a migliorare la visibilità negli attraversamenti pedonali in condizioni di scarsa luminosità comportino un impatto positivo.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005545/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Effectiveness of new luminous devices for pedestrian crossings

In order to improve road safety for pedestrians, in particular at night, a new, luminous device has been developed over the last few years; it involves a series of luminous LEDs fitted to a pedestrian crossing, in order to make it more visible to approaching vehicles. Specifically, a number of sensors react to the presence of pedestrians by activating the LEDs, which, by raising the level of illumination from below, enhance the visibility of the crossing by 70% at up to 150 metres. The system is already in use in some urban areas in various Italian municipalities, but for the moment the complete data regarding the impact of the new device on road accident statistics are not available.

1. Can the Commission clarify whether devices of this kind are also used in other Member States?
2. Can it provide any data on the effectiveness of the device in reducing the number of accidents at pedestrian crossings involving pedestrians?

**Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission**

(4 June 2014)

1. While the Commission understands that such devices are also used in some other Member States, the installation of such devices falls within the local, regional or national competence. There is no systematic or quantitative information on these devices.
2. As there are no systematic statistics or studies available on these devices the Commission cannot estimate their effect on road safety. However, the Commission points out that 70% of all road accidents take place in urban areas, but only 40% of all fatal accidents happen in urban areas. In more than one third of fatal urban accidents the victim is a pedestrian and half of these pedestrian fatalities take place in low light conditions. Taking into account that there are usually more pedestrians crossing streets during daytime, this shows that there is a greater risk of accident when crossing in low light conditions. Therefore measures improving visibility in street crossings in low light conditions are likely to be beneficial.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005546/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Rischi legati alla diffusione del gambero rosso della Louisiana nell'Adriatico

La presenza del gambero rosso della Louisiana sta aumentando sensibilmente nelle acque italiane. Importato per la prima volta in Spagna nel 1972, da allora si è diffuso in tutta Europa e rischia di divenire un pericolo per la biodiversità. Riuscendo ad adattarsi e a riprodursi molto bene anche in ambienti con caratteristiche profondamente diverse da quelle dell'areale di origine ha potuto colonizzare acque diverse, anche grazie alla sua robustezza e aggressività.

Il rischio principale della sua presenza nell'Adriatico è legato al fatto che tale specie sia vettore dell'afanomicosi, una patologia letale per i gamberi di fiume nativi. In più, scavando i fondali dei fiumi, provoca l'intorbidimento delle acque e rende i terreni porosi e impermeabili, causando infiltrazioni d'acqua e crolli degli argini, con conseguenti notevoli danni economici.

In merito a questa situazione, può la Commissione chiarire se esistono fondi e programmi europei attivati, o attivabili, volti a contenere e neutralizzare gli effetti negativi della presenza del gambero rosso della Louisiana nelle acque adriatiche?

**Risposta di Janez Potočnik a nome della Commissione**

(20 giugno 2014)

La lotta contro le specie esotiche invasive è uno dei sei obiettivi della strategia dell'UE sulla biodiversità <sup>(1)</sup>. Inoltre, entro il 2015 gli Stati membri dovrebbero raggiungere l'obiettivo del buono stato delle acque fissato dalla direttiva quadro in materia di acque (2000/60/CE <sup>(2)</sup>). I programmi di misure inclusi nei piani di gestione dei bacini idrografici dovrebbero prevedere tutte le misure necessarie per conseguire gli obiettivi della direttiva quadro. In aggiunta, la direttiva quadro sulla strategia per l'ambiente marino (2008/56/CE <sup>(3)</sup>) impone agli Stati membri di istituire e attuare entro il 2015 programmi di misure volte a conseguire o a mantenere un buono stato ecologico delle loro acque marine, affrontando tra l'altro i rischi connessi alle specie non indigene.

Il regolamento di prossima approvazione sulle specie esotiche invasive <sup>(4)</sup> è concepito per lottare contro le specie esotiche nell'UE che hanno gravi conseguenze per la biodiversità, la salute pubblica e l'economia. Il regolamento stabilisce il quadro in materia di lotta contro dette specie senza però elencare le specie oggetto delle misure: l'elenco verrà predisposto dalla Commissione e dagli Stati membri sulla base di criteri fissati dalla normativa e di rigorose valutazioni dei rischi. Il finanziamento delle azioni competerà agli Stati membri, i quali potranno però avvalersi dei vigenti meccanismi di finanziamento dell'UE, tra cui il programma LIFE, il Fondo europeo agricolo per lo sviluppo rurale (FEASR), il Fondo europeo per gli affari marittimi e la pesca (FEAMP) e il Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale (FESR).

<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2011) 244 definitivo.

<sup>(2)</sup> GU L 327 del 22.12.2000.

<sup>(3)</sup> GU L 164 del 25.6.2008.

<sup>(4)</sup> COM(2013) 620 final.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005546/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Risks associated with the spread of the Louisiana red swamp crayfish in the Adriatic

The presence of the Louisiana red swamp crayfish in Italian waters is increasing markedly. First imported into Spain in 1972, it has since then spread throughout Europe and threatens to become a hazard to biodiversity. With the ability to adapt and reproduce extremely well, even in environments with very different characteristics from those of its area of origin, it has succeeded in colonising different waters, thanks in part to its strength and aggression.

The main risk of its presence in the Adriatic is associated with the fact that this species is a carrier of aphanomyces (crayfish plague), a pathology which is lethal to the native crayfish. Also, by digging in riverbeds, it muddies the waters and makes the ground porous and impermeable, causing water seepage and collapse of the riverbanks, leading to significant economic harm.

With regard to this situation, can the Commission clarify whether any European funds and programmes exist and have been activated, or may be activated, in order to contain and neutralise the negative effects of the presence in the waters of the Adriatic of the Louisiana red swamp crayfish?

**Answer given by Mr Potočník on behalf of the Commission**

(20 June 2014)

Addressing the issue of invasive alien species (IAS) is one of the six targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy <sup>(1)</sup>. In addition, Member States should achieve the objective of the Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC <sup>(2)</sup>) of good status by 2015. The Programmes of Measures included in the River Basin Management Plans should include all the necessary measures to meet the WFD objectives. Furthermore, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC <sup>(3)</sup>) requires Member States by 2015 at the latest to establish and implement programmes of measures, which are designed to achieve or maintain good environmental status in their marine waters, covering among others threats associated with non-indigenous species.

The forthcoming Regulation on invasive alien species <sup>(4)</sup> is designed to address those species alien to the EU that have serious negative consequences on biodiversity, public health and the economy. The regulation sets out the framework to tackle such species but does not yet list which species will need to be subject to measures: this list of species of Union concern will be prepared by the Commission and the Member States on the basis of criteria set out in the legislation and robust risk assessments. Member States will be responsible for financing actions, but can find support through existing EU financing mechanisms, including the LIFE programme, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2011) 244 final.  
<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 327, 22.12.2000.  
<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 164, 25.6.2008.  
<sup>(4)</sup> COM(2013) 620 final.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005547/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Depressione sul posto di lavoro

Accanto ai rischi tradizionali (chimici, fisici e biologici) per la salute del lavoratore, i rischi psicosociali legati all'organizzazione stanno diventando una delle principali cause di alterazione della salute sul posto di lavoro. Uno dei fattori determinanti di questi rischi psicosociali è lo stress legato all'ambiente di lavoro, vale a dire generato dalle eccessive richieste da esso provenienti: lo stress di per sé non è una malattia, ma può causare depressione, esaurimento nervoso, cardiopatie qualora si dovesse manifestare per periodo prolungati e in maniera intensa. Lo stress può essere causato dall'organizzazione del lavoro, dalla «cultura» del posto di lavoro, da difficili rapporti interpersonali o da richieste prestazionali esorbitanti. Un caso particolare di fonte di disturbi psicosociali legati all'attività lavorativa è il mobbing, vale a dire una forma di violenza psicologica che implica la presenza di un aggressore (*mobber*), di una vittima (il lavoratore aggredito) e di possibili spettatori (i colleghi di lavoro). È una forma di maltrattamento psicologico deliberato che avviene con una frequenza elevata e per periodi di tempo protratti (almeno sei mesi), da parte di un superiore (*mobbing* verticale) o di uno o più colleghi (*mobbing* orizzontale), che ambiscono ad un controllo sul bersaglio o addirittura alla sua distruzione.

In merito a questo genere di patologia, può la Commissione chiarire se:

1. Esistono studi scientifici che individuino cause e sintomi specifici tramite cui riconoscere i casi di depressione sul posto di lavoro?
2. Esistono terapie specifiche consigliate da specialisti del settore?
3. È a conoscenza di campagne paneuropee di sensibilizzazione dell'opinione pubblica a questo genere di patologia psicosociale, la loro prevenzione e cura?
4. Dispone di dati aggiornati relativi alla diffusione della depressione sul posto da lavoro nell'UE-28?

**Risposta di László Andor a nome della Commissione**

(24 giugno 2014)

La Commissione desidera richiamare l'attenzione dell'onorevole deputato sulle proprie risposte date alle interrogazioni scritte E-717/2014 e E-2017/2014 riguardanti i rischi psicosociali legati al lavoro.

1. Una relazione Eurogip del 2013 <sup>(1)</sup> fornisce un aggiornamento sulle prassi attuali per il riconoscimento delle malattie mentali derivanti dal lavoro, tra cui la depressione, seguite in 10 paesi europei.
2. L'obiettivo prioritario dovrebbe essere prevenire la depressione d'origine occupazionale affrontando i rischi psicosociali sul luogo di lavoro. Le informazioni dell'Agenzia europea per la sicurezza e la salute sul lavoro (EU-OSHA) in materia di rischi psicosociali e stress occupazionale <sup>(2)</sup> suggeriscono di garantire una buona organizzazione del lavoro, chiarezza nella definizione di ruoli e compiti, la prevenzione di molestie e violenza, l'equa distribuzione del lavoro e dei premi, e la comunicazione bidirezionale. Uno studio <sup>(3)</sup> del 2013 effettuato per conto della Commissione fornisce un'analisi economica degli interventi di prevenzione e promozione della salute mentale sul luogo di lavoro. L'organizzazione e la fornitura di servizi sanitari e assistenza medica rientrano nelle competenze degli Stati membri.
3. Una campagna paneuropea per ambienti di lavoro sani e sicuri del 2014-15 <sup>(4)</sup>, coordinata da EU-OSHA, affronta la gestione dello stress e dei rischi psicosociali sul lavoro, con l'obiettivo di sensibilizzare e promuovere lo scambio di buone pratiche. Nell'ambito del programma dell'UE per la salute un'azione congiunta per la salute e il benessere mentale <sup>(5)</sup> che coinvolge 25 Stati membri mira ad accrescere la consapevolezza delle sfide e delle buone pratiche in materia di salute mentale, anche sul luogo di lavoro.
4. Stando all'ultimo sondaggio condotto da Eurobarometro sulle condizioni di lavoro <sup>(6)</sup> il 27 % dei lavoratori afferma di aver accusato negli ultimi 12 mesi sintomi di stress, depressione o ansia, causati o peggiorati dal lavoro. La Commissione non è tuttavia in possesso di dati dettagliati in merito all'incidenza o alla prevalenza della depressione d'origine occupazionale negli Stati membri.

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<sup>(1)</sup> «What recognition of work-related mental disorders? A study on 10 countries», relazione Eurogip-81/E (febbraio 2013): <http://www.eurogip.fr/en/publications-d-eurogip/3483-what-recognition-of-work-related-mental-disorders-a-study-on-10-countries>

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://osha.europa.eu/it/topics/stress>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental\\_health/docs/matrix\\_economic\\_analysis\\_mh\\_promotion\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/docs/matrix_economic_analysis_mh_promotion_en.pdf)

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://www.healthy-workplaces.eu/it/>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.mentalhealthandwellbeing.eu/>

<sup>(6)</sup> Flash Eurobarometro 398 (2014): [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/flash\\_arch\\_404\\_391\\_en.htm#398](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_404_391_en.htm#398)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005547/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Depression in the workplace

Traditionally, the risks to worker health have been chemical, physical and biological. Now psychosocial risks, related to organisation, are becoming a principal cause of health impairment in the workplace. One of the determinants of these psychosocial risks is stress, linked to the situation at work and triggered by excessive demands deriving from it. Stress is not an illness in itself, but can cause depression, nervous breakdown and heart disease if it continues at intense levels over extended periods. Stress can be caused by the way work is organised, by the workplace 'culture,' by difficulties in social interaction or by excessive requirements to perform. A particular source of work-related psychosocial disorders is mobbing. This form of psychological aggression involves a mobber, a victim (the mobbed employee) and possible onlookers (colleagues at work). It is a deliberate form of psychological abuse, occurring at high frequency over extended periods (at least six months). It may be carried out by a line manager (vertical mobbing) or by one or more colleagues (horizontal mobbing). They seek control over their target or even its destruction.

1. Can the Commission clarify whether there are scientific studies identifying specific causes and symptoms from which cases of workplace depression can be diagnosed?
2. Do specialists in the field recommend specific treatments?
3. Is the Commission aware of campaigns across Europe to raise public awareness of this type of psychosocial illness and how to prevent and treat it?
4. Does the Commission hold updated figures on the spread of workplace depression in the EU-28?

**Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission**

(24 June 2014)

The Commission would draw the Honourable Member's attention to its answers to questions E-717/2014 and E-2017/2014, which refer to work-related psychosocial risks.

1. A 2013 Eurogip report <sup>(1)</sup> gives an update on current practice on the recognition of work-related mental diseases, including work-related depression, in 10 European countries
2. Priority should be to prevent work-related depression by addressing the psychosocial risks at the workplace. Information from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) on psychosocial risks and stress at work <sup>(2)</sup> suggests good work organisation, clear roles and tasks, the prevention of harassment and violence, fair distribution of work and rewards, and two-way communication. A study <sup>(3)</sup> for the Commission from 2013 undertook an economic analysis of mental health prevention and promotion interventions at workplaces. The organisation and delivery of health services and medical care fall under the responsibility of Member States.
3. A 2014-15 pan-European Healthy Workplaces Campaign <sup>(4)</sup> coordinated by EU-OSHA addresses management of stress and psychosocial risks at work. It aims to raise awareness and promote the sharing of good practice. A Joint Action Mental Health and Well-being <sup>(5)</sup> under the EU-Health Programme involving 25 Member States aims to raise awareness about challenges and good practices in mental health, including at workplaces.
4. According to the latest Eurobarometer Survey on working conditions <sup>(6)</sup>, 27% of those currently working report experiencing stress, depression or anxiety, either caused or exacerbated by work, in the past 12 months. However, the Commission is not in possession of detailed incidence or prevalence data of workplace depression in the Member States.

<sup>(1)</sup> 'What recognition of work-related mental disorders? A study on 10 countries', Report Eurogip-81/E (February 2013), at: <http://www.eurogip.fr/en/publications-d-eurogip/3483-what-recognition-of-work-related-mental-disorders-a-study-on-10-countries>

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/stress>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental\\_health/docs/matrix\\_economic\\_analysis\\_mh\\_promotion\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/docs/matrix_economic_analysis_mh_promotion_en.pdf)

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://www.healthy-workplaces.eu/>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://www.mentalhealthandwellbeing.eu/>

<sup>(6)</sup> Flash Eurobarometer 398 (2014), at: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/flash\\_arch\\_404\\_391\\_en.htm#398](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_404_391_en.htm#398)



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005548/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Attività terroristiche mirate contro la lotta alla poliomielite

Secondo l'Organizzazione mondiale della sanità, la lotta per l'eliminazione della poliomielite è minacciata dall'attività di terroristi islamici, che mettono a segno un sempre maggior numero di attacchi contro operatori della sanità, o tramite divieti all'immunizzazione su base locale. Il rischio sarebbe maggiore in Africa centrale, Medio Oriente e Corno d'Africa. Ad esempio, nel 2007, il direttore del programma di eliminazione della poliomielite nel nord del Pakistan è stato assassinato in un attacco bomba in seguito a una fatwa di un capo talebano. Diversi attacchi hanno poi colpito volontari e operatori sanitari, oltre che il personale di sicurezza messo a loro disposizione, come ad esempio lo scorso 2 marzo, quando l'esplosione coordinata di due bombe ha provocato la morte di undici vaccinatori, un agente di polizia e un bambino.

In merito a questa situazione, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. È a conoscenza dell'allarme lanciato dall'OMS?
2. Quali strumenti intende adoperare per fermare questa azione di disturbo e limitarne gli effetti?

**Risposta di Andris Piebalgs a nome della Commissione  
(18 giugno 2014)**

1. La Commissione è al corrente del fatto che l'Organizzazione mondiale della sanità (OMS) ha sempre condannato con fermezza le attività terroristiche dirette contro gli operatori che eseguono le vaccinazioni antipolio e altri operatori sanitari. Se con «allarme lanciato» l'onorevole deputato si riferisce all'ultima dichiarazione del 5 maggio 2014, con cui l'OMS ha rilevato nella diffusione della poliomielite un'emergenza di salute pubblica di livello internazionale, risulta alla Commissione che la dichiarazione non vertesse specificamente sul problema rappresentato da tali atti terroristici.
2. Spetta al governo del rispettivo paese garantire agli operatori sanitari condizioni di sicurezza sufficienti a permetter loro di effettuare le operazioni di vaccinazione. La Commissione assiste nel potenziamento dei sistemi sanitari i paesi in cui la salute costituisce uno dei settori centrali della cooperazione allo sviluppo. Laddove l'UE offra un sostegno specifico all'eradicazione della poliomielite, la Commissione concorda con i partner responsabili dell'attuazione le modalità che meglio permettono di adattarsi alla volatilità delle condizioni di sicurezza: nel Corno d'Africa, ad esempio, perché le campagne di vaccinazione possano raggiungere anche le zone insicure, si attrezzano poli permanenti di vaccinazione nei punti di ingresso/uscita e il vaccino sarà somministrato anche a persone appartenenti a fasce di età più ampie

In termini più generali, la Commissione promuove attivamente il rispetto e la protezione degli operatori, delle strutture e del trasporto sanitari nelle situazioni di conflitto armato e in altre situazioni di emergenza. Per sensibilizzare alla questione, nel 2013 il Comitato internazionale della Croce rossa e la Commissione hanno altresì condotto insieme la campagna «L'assistenza sanitaria in pericolo» in vari Stati membri dell'UE.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005548/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Terrorist activities targeting the anti-polio campaign

According to the World Health Organisation, the battle to eliminate polio is being threatened by the activities of Islamic terrorists, who are making an ever increasing number of attacks on health workers and prohibiting immunisation in some areas. The risk is greatest in central Africa, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. In 2007, for example, the head of the anti-polio programme in northern Pakistan was killed by a bomb attack following a fatwa declared by a Taliban leader. Several attacks have since injured and killed health workers and volunteers, as well as security personnel placed at their disposal. On 2 March, for instance, the coordinated explosion of two bombs killed eleven immunisation workers, a policeman and a child.

Can the Commission answer the following questions regarding this situation:

1. Is it aware of the warning issued by the WHO?
2. What instruments is it planning to use to put a stop to this disruption and limit its impact?

**Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission**

(18 June 2014)

1. Regarding the terrorist activities targeting anti-polio vaccinators and other health workers, the Commission is aware that WHO has always firmly condemned such acts. If the 'warning' referred to by the Honourable Member is the latest WHO statement declaring polio spread a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern' of 5 May 2014, the Commission's understanding is that it does not specifically deal with the problem of such terrorist acts.
2. Ensuring sufficient security for health workers to be able to carry out their vaccination duties is the responsibility of the respective countries' governments; the Commission helps countries to strengthen their health systems in countries where health is a focal sector of development cooperation. In cases of specific EU-support to polio eradication, the Commission agrees with the implementing partners on the best arrangements for taking the volatile security situation into account (e.g. Horn of Africa: in order to conduct vaccination campaigns in insecure areas, permanent vaccination posts in entry/exit points are set up and health facilities will also vaccinate expanded age groups).

More generally, the Commission actively promotes respect for and protection of healthcare workers, facilities and transport in situations of armed conflict and other emergencies. Moreover, to build public awareness of the issue, in 2013 the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Commission jointly implemented the Health Care in Danger campaign in a number of EU Member States.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005549/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Area contaminata nel comune di Brescia

Nel comune di Brescia esiste una limitazione all'utilizzo dei suoli dovuta alla sussistenza di condizioni sanitarie di pericolo per la salute pubblica. Di fatto vi è un divieto di utilizzo del suolo per l'aratura e il dissodamento nonché per ogni altra azione che comporti il contatto con il terreno stesso come coltivare verdure o semplicemente calpestare l'erba. Il divieto riguarda circa 2 100 ettari di terreno ed è legato all'attività di un'industria chimica presente sul territorio, produttrice di PCB fino al 1984. Nonostante diversi dati provenienti da più fonti confermino l'inquinamento subito dal suolo e dalla cittadinanza che risiede nell'area in questione, il processo di bonifica, estremamente complicato e inasprito dalla gravità della situazione, non è mai partito e l'inquinamento arriva ormai fino a trentacinque metri sotto la superficie.

In merito a quanto esposto, può la Commissione chiarire se esistono fondi o programmi europei cui le autorità locali possano fare riferimento per agevolare e garantire il corretto e completo svolgimento delle attività di bonifica?

**Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione**

(24 giugno 2014)

Il programma 2007-2013 per la Lombardia, cofinanziato dal Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale, non prevede alcun sostegno finanziario per la bonifica e la riqualificazione ambientale delle zone contaminate.

Per il periodo 2014-2020 la normativa consente di proteggere l'ambiente e promuovere l'efficienza nell'impiego delle risorse grazie a provvedimenti volti a riqualificare e decontaminare i siti dismessi (comprese le aree di riconversione).

In linea con il principio di gestione condivisa, applicato nell'amministrare la politica di coesione, la selezione degli investimenti prioritari viene proposta dalle autorità nazionali e regionali nei documenti di programmazione per il periodo 2014-2020, i quali devono essere approvati dalla Commissione. Sono in corso discussioni sui documenti italiani di programmazione per il periodo 2014-2020.

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(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005549/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Contaminated area in Brescia

There are restrictions on land use in Brescia because of a continuing situation that poses a risk to public health. There is in fact a ban on ploughing, tilling or any other activity that involves direct contact with the soil, such as growing vegetables or even walking on the grass. The ban covers some 2 100 hectares of land and is connected to the activity of a chemicals firm in the area, which was producing PCBs until 1984. Despite various figures from several sources confirming the pollution affecting both the land and people who live in the area, the reclamation process — which is very complicated and made even more difficult by the seriousness of the situation — has never even begun, and the pollution has now reached a depth of thirty-five metres below the surface.

With regard to this situation, can the Commission clarify whether there are any European funds or programmes to which the local authorities can apply for help to facilitate and guarantee a full and proper reclamation process?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission**

(24 June 2014)

The 2007-2013 programme for Lombardy co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund does not envisage any support for the reclamation and environmental rehabilitation of contaminated areas.

For the 2014-2020 period, the rules provide for the possibility of protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency by taking actions to regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas).

In line with the shared management principle used for the administration of cohesion policy, the selection of the priorities of investment are proposed by the national and regional authorities in the 2014-2020 programming documents which need to be approved by the Commission. Discussions on Italy's 2014-2020 programming documents are on-going.

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(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005550/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Restauro di un'imbarcazione al servizio dell'inclusività

Un progetto realizzato in Sicilia ha permesso a giovani detenuti di misurarsi con ulteriori realtà e gruppi di riferimento: in sostanza, è stato predisposto un lavoro di restauro di una vecchia imbarcazione commerciale, di proprietà di una famiglia palermitana, che ha coinvolto i giovani ospiti di strutture penitenziarie, oltre a diverse associazioni onlus.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione:

presentare analoghe iniziative in altri contesti europei?

**Risposta di László Andor a nome della Commissione**

(13 giugno 2014)

L'amministrazione del Fondo sociale europeo (FSE) segue il principio della gestione concorrente, il che implica che gli orientamenti generali per l'attuazione del FSE sono sviluppati a livello europeo, ma la realizzazione degli interventi è di responsabilità delle autorità nazionali o regionali.

La selezione dei progetti compete quindi alle autorità nazionali e regionali.

Tra le diverse iniziative nel campo dell'inclusione sociale, per l'Italia si riscontrano esempi come:

- Il lavoro per l'inclusione sociale dei detenuti beneficiari dell'indulto <sup>(1)</sup>;
- Progetti per il reinserimento socio-lavorativo di detenuti ed ex detenuti: alcune buone pratiche realizzate in Italia <sup>(2)</sup>
- Oltre il carcere — I percorsi per l'integrazione socio-lavorativa dei detenuti ed ex detenuti nei progetti Occupazione <sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.italialavoro.it/wps/wcm/connect/a9b16e8041968c919790df31c86698f3/Volume+Indulto.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://www.isfol.it/Istituto/chi-siamo/dipartimento-sistemi-formativi/cooperazione-transnazionale-1/progetto-social-1/SocialCompendium.pdf>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://www.ristretti.it/areestudio/giuridici/studi/isfol\\_lavoro\\_detenuti.pdf](http://www.ristretti.it/areestudio/giuridici/studi/isfol_lavoro_detenuti.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005550/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Restoration of a ship in order to promote inclusiveness

A project which has been carried out in Sicily has given young prisoners an opportunity to compete with other collectives and reference groups: essentially, some restoration work was organised on an old commercial vessel belonging to a family in Palermo, which involved young people serving custodial sentences, as well as various non-profit associations.

In the light of this, can the Commission present similar initiatives in other European contexts?

(Version française)

**Réponse donnée par M. Andor au nom de la Commission**

(13 juin 2014)

La gestion du Fonds social européen (FSE) répond au principe de la gestion partagée, ce qui implique que les orientations générales pour la mise en œuvre du FSE sont développées au niveau européen, mais la réalisation est de la responsabilité des autorités nationales ou régionales.

La sélection des projets revient donc aux autorités nationales et régionales.

Parmi les nombreuses initiatives dans le domaine de l'inclusion sociale, on trouve, en ce qui concerne l'Italie, des exemples comme:

- Il Lavoro per l'inclusione sociale dei detenuti beneficiari dell'indulto <sup>(1)</sup>;
- Progetti per il reinserimento socio-lavorativo di detenuti ed ex detenuti: alcune buone pratiche realizzate in Italia <sup>(2)</sup>;
- Oltre il carcere — I percorsi per l'integrazione socio-lavorativa dei detenuti ed ex detenuti nei progetti Occupazione <sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.italialavoro.it/wps/wcm/connect/a9b1678041968c919790df31c86698f3/Volume+Indulto.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://www.isfol.it/Istituto/chi-siamo/dipartimento-sistemi-formativi/cooperazione-transnazionale-1/progetto-social-1/SocialCompendium.pdf>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://www.ristretti.it/areestudio/giuridici/studi/isfol\\_lavoro\\_detenuti.pdf](http://www.ristretti.it/areestudio/giuridici/studi/isfol_lavoro_detenuti.pdf)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005551/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Monitoraggio dei consumi delle navi da crociera

In linea con le esigenze di sostenibilità ambientale attestatesi progressivamente nell'ambito della sfera produttiva mondiale, il sistema informatico di monitoraggio dei consumi energetici (non propulsivi) delle navi da crociera si rivela un valido strumento per rilevare criticità e predisporre correttivi. Nello specifico, le navi da crociera presentano un'ampia fetta di dispendio energetico relativamente alle attività degli hotels.

Il sistema, peraltro, offre un ulteriore vantaggio in relazione alla facilità di utilizzo (da parte del personale) e all'affidabilità delle rilevazioni registrate.

Alla luce di quanto esposto, può la Commissione fornire:

1. ulteriori esempi relativi alla riduzione dei consumi delle grandi imbarcazioni?
2. Dati in merito alle esternalità ambientali prodotte dalle navi da crociera?

**Risposta di Günther Oettinger a nome della Commissione**

(1° luglio 2014)

1. Il diritto dell'UE non disciplina l'efficienza energetica o i valori limite di emissione delle attività degli hotel delle navi da crociera. Tuttavia, ai sensi della proposta di regolamento per la definizione di un sistema per il monitoraggio, la comunicazione e la verifica delle emissioni di CO<sub>2</sub> generate dal trasporto marittimo <sup>(1)</sup>, tutte le navi di stazza lorda superiore a 5000 tonnellate (comprese le navi da crociera) sono tenute a monitorare e a comunicare il loro consumo di carburante. A livello internazionale, le norme dell'Organizzazione marittima internazionale obbligano le nuove navi da crociera, dotate di sistemi di propulsione non convenzionale (ossia di propulsione diesel-elettrica) e costruite dopo il 2013, a migliorare l'indice di efficienza energetica in materia di progettazione (EEDI <sup>(2)</sup>), al fine di ridurre il consumo di carburante.

2. La *Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)* (l'Associazione internazionale delle compagnie di navigazione da crociera) ha adottato norme industriali per la gestione dei rifiuti e dell'energia e ha condotto degli studi sulle prestazioni delle compagnie di navigazione da crociera in materia di gestione dei rifiuti e dell'energia. In generale queste compagnie pubblicano dati più dettagliati e le navi da crociera sono normalmente vincolate al rispetto delle norme internazionali in materia di scarico previste dalla convenzione MARPOL (convenzione internazionale per la prevenzione dell'inquinamento causato da navi), nonché all'obbligo di conferire i rifiuti generati dalle navi agli impianti portuali di raccolta prima di lasciare il porto (ai sensi della direttiva 2000/59/CE). Nella comunicazione sul turismo costiero e marittimo (COM(2014) 86 final), di recente adozione, la Commissione si è impegnata a promuovere un dialogo paneuropeo tra operatori del comparto croceristico, porti e portatori d'interesse nel turismo costiero, con l'obiettivo di affrontare questioni di interesse comune, come ad esempio la sostenibilità ambientale al fine di elaborare le migliori pratiche più rispettose dell'ambiente.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2013) 480 final.

<sup>(2)</sup> Indice di efficienza energetica in materia di progettazione.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005551/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Monitoring the consumption of cruise ships

In line with the environmental sustainability requirements observed over time within the global production sphere, the information system for monitoring the (non-propulsion-related) energy consumption of cruise ships is proving to be a useful instrument for highlighting critical issues and arranging solutions. Specifically, cruise ships waste a large amount of energy compared with the activities of hotels.

In addition, the system offers a further advantage in terms of ease of use (by staff) and the reliability of the data recorded.

In light of this, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Can it provide further examples of reducing the consumption of large craft?
2. Can it provide data concerning the environmental externalities produced by cruise ships?

**Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission**

(1 July 2014)

1. The EU legislation does not regulate the energy efficiency or the emission thresholds of the hotel load of cruise ships. However, under the proposed Regulation for setting up a system to monitor, report and verify CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from maritime transport <sup>(1)</sup>, all ships above 5000GT (including cruise ships) would be required to monitor and report their fuel consumption. At international level, the International Maritime Organisation rules require new cruise ships with non-conventional propulsion (i.e. diesel-electric propulsion) built after 2013 to improve their design energy efficiency (EEDI <sup>(2)</sup>), leading to reduced fuel consumption.

2. The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has adopted industry standards for waste and energy management and has carried out studies on the performance of cruise companies with regard to waste and energy management. More detailed data are generally published by cruise companies. More generally, cruise ships are bound by the international discharge norms contained in the MARPOL Convention (the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships), as well as the obligation to deliver their ship-generated waste to Port Reception Facilities before departure from a port (under Directive 2000/59/EC). In its recently adopted Communication on Coastal and Maritime Tourism (COM(2014)86 final), the Commission is engaged in promoting a pan-European dialogue between cruise operators, ports and coastal tourism stakeholders, to tackle common issues, such as environmental sustainability in order to develop best greener practices.

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<sup>(1)</sup> COM(2013)480 final.

<sup>(2)</sup> Energy Efficiency Design Index.



(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005552/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

Oggetto: Osservatorio per le scorie nucleari

L'Osservatorio per le scorie nucleari nasce nella penisola italiana, sotto la responsabilità di un'agenzia tecnica del ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze. Il nuovo organo sarà deputato alla gestione e smaltimento dei rifiuti nucleari presenti nel paese individuando strutture idonee per la disattivazione. Peraltro, emerge la necessità di contemplare un sistema di smaltimento comune — per il lungo periodo — a livello europeo.

1. Può la Commissione fornire informazioni in merito ad eventuali progetti di livello transnazionale considerati dall'UE per la disattivazione?
2. Può inoltre fornire informazioni in ordine agli strumenti posti in essere negli altri Stati membri, ai fini di una gestione delle scorie condotta all'insegna della sicurezza?

**Risposta di Günther Oettinger a nome della Commissione**

(11 giugno 2014)

1. L'UE non sta considerando alcun progetto transnazionale di disattivazione: responsabile della disattivazione in condizioni di sicurezza degli impianti nucleari è il titolare della licenza, e in ultima analisi lo Stato membro, anche in termini di accumulo di congrue risorse finanziarie. Questo principio ha ammesso un'unica eccezione, vale a dire l'assistenza finanziaria prestata dall'UE a Bulgaria, Lituania e Slovacchia, a titolo di misura solidale dell'Unione, dopo che i tre Stati membri si erano impegnati a chiudere rapidamente alcune delle loro centrali nucleari nel contesto dell'adesione all'UE.
2. Nel 2011 l'UE ha adottato la direttiva 2011/70/Euratom del Consiglio che istituisce un quadro comunitario per la gestione responsabile e sicura del combustibile nucleare esaurito e dei rifiuti radioattivi<sup>(1)</sup>, il cui articolo 7, paragrafo 3, impone inequivocabilmente, nell'ambito della concessione della licenza per un impianto, una dimostrazione della sicurezza che ne copra l'intero ciclo di vita. Gli Stati membri erano tenuti a mettere in vigore le disposizioni legislative, regolamentari e amministrative necessarie per conformarsi alla direttiva entro il 23 agosto 2013 e a informarne la Commissione. La Commissione sta esaminando le disposizioni nazionali di attuazione che gli Stati membri le hanno comunicato.

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<sup>(1)</sup> GUL 199 del 2.8.2011.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005552/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Nuclear waste observatory

The nuclear waste observatory is being built in Italy under the auspices of a technical agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. The new body will have a remit to manage and dispose of nuclear waste in the country, identifying suitable structures for decommissioning. However, the need is becoming apparent to consider a joint disposal system — for the long term — at European level.

1. Can the Commission supply information about any transnational projects which the EU is considering for decommissioning?
2. Can it also supply information about the instruments adopted in other Member States to manage nuclear waste in the interests of safety?

**Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission**

(11 June 2014)

1. The EU is not considering any transnational projects for decommissioning. The license holder, and ultimately the Member State, is responsible for the safe decommissioning of its nuclear facilities, including the accumulation of adequate financial resources. There is only one exception to this principle, which is the EU financial assistance to Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia as a measure of EU solidarity following the commitment of the three Member States to the early closure of some of their nuclear power plants in the context of their accession to the EU.
2. In 2011 the EU adopted Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste <sup>(1)</sup>. Article 7(3) of the directive clearly requires a safety demonstration as part of the licensing of a facility, covering its entire lifecycle. Member States were obliged to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this directive by 23 August 2013, and to inform the Commission thereof. The Commission is currently examining the national transposition measures communicated to it by the Member States.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJL 199, 2.8.2011.

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005553/14  
alla Commissione**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 aprile 2014)

**Oggetto:** Trend preoccupanti in tema di abusi su minori e adolescenti

Tra il 2008 e il 2013 il Telefono Azzurro ha ricevuto 16 000 segnalazioni di maltrattamenti, circa quattro al giorno, da parte di bambini o adolescenti. In tutto, sono state registrate 8 885 forme di violenza. Si tratta soprattutto di abusi psicologici (18,8 %, di cui il 50 % nasce in situazioni di conflitto familiare), ma anche di abusi fisici (11 %, di cui il 63 % per percosse, il 3,8 % per violenza sessuale e il 10,5 % per trascuratezza).

Le vittime sono soprattutto bambine e adolescenti (53 %), che arrivano al 68,1 % in caso di abusi sessuali. Per quanto riguarda i responsabili delle violenze, si tratta soprattutto di uomini (53,4 % dei casi), che raggiungono la terribile quota dell'88,1 % in caso di abusi sessuali. Le donne hanno invece il triste primato nel campo della trascuratezza, con il 64,1 % dei casi. A peggiorare il quadro totale della situazione è che nell'80 % dei casi questi abusi sono commessi da persone conosciute.

Un altro dato che desta apprensione è il fatto che i casi in cui i responsabili di violenze sessuali sono bambini e adolescenti è passato dal 6,4 % nel 2008 al 14,6 % nel 2013, più che raddoppiando, e che sono raddoppiate anche le denunce dei minori stranieri, dal 17,5 % al 30,5 %.

In merito a questo quadro, può la Commissione chiarire se:

1. Dispone di dati analoghi in merito alla situazione negli altri Stati membri e alla media totale dell'UE-28?
2. È a conoscenza di (o ha incoraggiato) iniziative transnazionali europee, condotte da governi, istituzioni nazionali o ONG, per migliorare i servizi di assistenza a bambini e adolescenti vittime di abusi e migliorare la consapevolezza relativamente a questi servizi tra la cittadinanza?

**Risposta di Johannes Hahn a nome della Commissione**

(11 luglio 2014)

1. L'abuso sui minori può assumere molteplici forme e verificarsi in contesti diversi. Un vasto studio dal titolo «Violenza contro le donne: un'indagine su scala europea», condotto di recente dall'Agenzia dell'Unione europea per i diritti fondamentali, rivela per esempio dati concreti sulle violenze subite dai minori <sup>(1)</sup>.

2. La Commissione è fortemente impegnata nel tutelare i bambini e gli adolescenti contro tutte le forme di violenza, anche tramite i finanziamenti DAPHNE. La comunicazione della Commissione dal titolo «Programma UE per i diritti dei minori» <sup>(2)</sup> si incentra su una serie di azioni concrete nei settori in cui l'UE può apportare un reale valore aggiunto, quali la giustizia a misura di minore, la protezione dei minori in situazioni di vulnerabilità e la lotta contro la violenza nei confronti dei bambini, sia all'interno che all'esterno dell'Unione europea. La direttiva 2012/29/UE che istituisce norme minime in materia di diritti, assistenza e protezione delle vittime di reato sottolinea l'importanza delle tecniche di comunicazione attente alle esigenze dei minori e garantisce l'introduzione di una serie di misure specifiche a tutela dei minori. Al di là delle norme UE intese a proteggere i bambini e a fornire soluzioni durature <sup>(3)</sup>, la Commissione sta cercando di promuovere una maggiore collaborazione tra i vari attori e i diversi settori, tra cui i ministeri nazionali. La Commissione sta poi elaborando orientamenti sui sistemi di protezione dei minori con l'obiettivo di promuovere un approccio integrato in materia. È sua intenzione inoltre sostenere le autorità nazionali nella realizzazione di servizi efficaci ed efficienti, come si legge nella raccomandazione della Commissione «Investire nell'infanzia per spezzare il circolo vizioso dello svantaggio sociale» <sup>(4)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results_en.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> Programma UE per i diritti dei minori, COM(2011) 60 def., <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0060:en:NOT>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/eu\\_acquis\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/eu_acquis_2013_en.pdf)

<sup>(4)</sup> C(2013) 778 final [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/c\\_2013\\_778\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/c_2013_778_en.pdf)

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-00553/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Alarming trends in child and adolescent abuse

Between 2008 and 2013, the Italian children's charity Telefono Azzurro received 16 000 calls from children and adolescents who were being abused, which equates to four every single day. In total, 8 885 different forms of violence were reported, with psychological abuse being the most common (18.8%, 50% of which stemmed from conflicts with family members), followed by physical abuse (11%, with 63% of these cases involving punches, 3.8% sexual violence and 10.5% negligence).

The majority of the victims (53%) were girls and teenage women, who suffered 68.1% of all cases of sexual abuse. The majority of the perpetrators, on the other hand, were men (53.4%), who shockingly were responsible for 88.1% of all instances of sexual abuse. Women, meanwhile, achieved the dubious 'honour' of being behind most cases of negligence (64.1%). To make matters even worse, 80% of all the incidents of abuse reported were committed by people who their victims personally knew.

Another statistic that makes for grim reading concerns the percentage of acts of sexual violence that were committed by boys and teenage men, which more than doubled from 6.4% in 2008 to 14.6% in 2013. The number of cases reported by non-Italian minors also rose significantly, almost doubling from 17.5% to 30.5% over the same period.

1. In light of the above, does the Commission have any similar statistics to hand that show just how widespread this problem is in other Member States and in the EU as a whole?
2. Is it aware of, or has it actively endorsed, any European transnational initiatives launched by governments, national institutions or NGOs in order to improve the support services provided to children and adolescents who have suffered from abuse, and also make citizens more aware of these services?

**Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission**

(11 July 2014)

1. Abuse against children can take many forms and will occur in different settings. A recent major study 'Violence against women: an EU-wide survey' conducted by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, for example, has revealed concrete figures of experiences of violence in childhood. <sup>(1)</sup>
2. The Commission is strongly committed to the protection of children and young people against all forms of violence, including through DAPHNE funding. The Commission's communication 'EU Agenda on the Rights of the Child' <sup>(2)</sup> focuses on a number of concrete actions in areas where the EU can bring real added value, such as child-friendly justice, protecting children in vulnerable situations and fighting violence against children both inside the European Union and externally. In the directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime an emphasis is made on child-sensitive communication and a whole range of special measures will be put in place to protect children victims of crime. Aside from EU legislation including provisions to protect children and to provide durable solutions <sup>(3)</sup>, the Commission is undertaking efforts to promote the need for stronger collaboration among different actors and across sectors, including various national ministries. The Commission is currently developing guidance for Member States on child protection systems with the aim of promoting an integrated approach towards child protection. The Commission also aims to support national authorities in delivering effective and efficient services as outlined in the Commission Recommendation 'Investing in children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage' <sup>(4)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results_en.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> An EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child COM/2011/0060 final, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52011DC0060:en:NOT>

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/eu\\_acquis\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/eu_acquis_2013_en.pdf)

<sup>(4)</sup> C(2013) 778 final [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/c\\_2013\\_778\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/c_2013_778_en.pdf)

(Versione italiana)

**Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-005554/14  
alla Commissione  
Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)  
(24 aprile 2014)**

**Oggetto:** Tensioni legate alla costruzione di un gasdotto al confine tra Cina e Birmania

Il progetto di un nuovo gasdotto sino-birmano potrebbe creare una serie di attriti da tenere ben in considerazione. La Birmania ha subito enormi cambiamenti negli ultimi anni, anche grazie a grandi investimenti provenienti dall'estero. Il progetto del gasdotto consiste essenzialmente nella costruzione di due gasdotti lunghi circa mille chilometri e interconnessi con altri progetti infrastrutturali, che dovrebbero trasportare i gas naturali della Birmania verso la Cina. Il progetto permetterebbe un'ulteriore crescita economica della Birmania, sia attraendo ulteriori investimenti esteri, sia tramite i proventi della vendita delle proprie risorse energetiche. Allo stesso modo, la Cina beneficerebbe di una indispensabile diversificazione del proprio portafoglio energetico e arricchirebbe lo Yunnan, la terza provincia più povera del paese.

Nonostante questi benefici, il progetto comporta anche alcuni rischi legati innanzitutto alla lotta per gli investimenti esteri nel paese emergente, che potrebbe coinvolgere anche imprese e altri attori economici europei. Inoltre, esistono rischi collegati alla labile situazione di alcune aree in cui il gasdotto dovrà transitare, a partire dallo Stato federale di Rakhine, in Birmania, teatro di scontri di grandi proporzioni tra le fazioni musulmana e buddhista.

Alla luce di quanto descritto, può la Commissione chiarire se:

1. è a conoscenza della situazione;
2. ritiene che la costruzione del gasdotto possa divenire fonte di ulteriore instabilità, contribuendo a destabilizzare un'area che già è divenuta teatro, negli ultimi mesi, di crescenti attriti tra la Cina e i propri vicini meridionali.

**Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione  
(7 luglio 2014)**

L'UE è a conoscenza della situazione.

Le controversie sul gasdotto sino-birmano sono dovute al suo impatto sociale e ambientale, anche nella Cina stessa. Secondo il governo cinese e la *China National Petroleum Company* (compagnia petrolifera cinese) sono stati compiuti notevoli sforzi per rispondere alle critiche sull'efficacia del gasdotto e soddisfare le esigenze locali nel Myanmar/Birmania. A causa delle proteste pubbliche contro gli investimenti cinesi su larga scala, pare che gli investitori cinesi stiano facendo concessioni al fine di correggere errori precedenti e contrastare le percezioni negative. Nuovi grandi investimenti cinesi sono stati sospesi.

Il governo del Myanmar sta elaborando una politica fondiaria nazionale e ha adottato una serie di nuove leggi riguardanti i diritti fondiari.

In tale contesto, l'UE attribuisce grande importanza al comportamento responsabile delle imprese e alla responsabilità sociale delle stesse conformemente alle linee guida e ai principi riconosciuti a livello internazionale. L'UE promuove il rispetto dei principi guida delle Nazioni Unite su imprese e diritti umani, anche da parte dei paesi terzi. Tali questioni sono state discusse nel corso del 1° dialogo tra l'UE e il Myanmar sui diritti umani svoltosi il 20 maggio 2014 a Nay Pyi Taw. Il 9 settembre 2013 si è tenuta, inoltre, in Cina una tavola rotonda su imprese e diritti umani, presieduta dal rappresentante speciale dell'UE per i diritti umani. Inoltre, l'UE sta cercando di sviluppare la cooperazione bilaterale con la Cina in materia di responsabilità sociale delle imprese.

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005554/14  
to the Commission**

**Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE)**

(24 April 2014)

*Subject:* Tensions arising from the construction of a gas pipeline on the border between China and Burma

The project for a new Sino-Burma gas pipeline could spark a wave of unrest that must not be ignored at any cost. Burma has undergone enormous changes over the past few years, thanks in part to huge amounts of foreign investment. The project essentially involves constructing two gas pipelines, each spanning a distance of around 1 000 kilometres and connected to other infrastructure projects, which will transport natural gas from Burma to China. The project is expected to further boost Burma's economy, since it will not only attract even more in the way of foreign investment but also allow Burma to sell its own energy resources. It will also enable China to diversify its own energy portfolio (an issue that it regards as crucial) and develop Yunnan, the third poorest province in the whole country.

Despite all these potential benefits, there are also a number of risks inherent to the project, which are primarily linked with the mad scramble for foreign investment in the developing country, which could potentially also involve companies and other economic players from Europe. There are also dangers arising from the instability in some of the areas through which the gas pipelines will be passing, not least Rakhine State in Burma, which has already witnessed a number of large-scale clashes between Muslim and Buddhist factions.

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation described above?
2. Does it believe that the construction of the gas pipeline could spark yet more unrest in the region and cause relations between China and its neighbouring countries, which have already proved rather fractious over the past few months, to deteriorate even further?

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission**

(7 July 2014)

The EU is aware of the situation.

Controversy over the Sino-Myanmar Oil and Gas Pipelines stems from its social and environmental impact, including in China itself. According to the Chinese government and China National Petroleum Company, considerable efforts have been made to address criticism of the pipelines and to meet local demands in Myanmar/Burma. Due to public protests against large-scale Chinese investments, Chinese investors are reportedly making concessions in order to correct earlier mistakes and counter negative perceptions. New large-scale Chinese investments have been put on hold.

The Government of Myanmar is working on a national land policy. A range of new laws addressing land rights has been adopted.

In this context, the EU attaches great importance to responsible business conduct and corporate social responsibility in accordance with internationally recognised guidelines and principles. The EU promotes adherence to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including by third countries. These issues were discussed at the 1st EU-Myanmar Human Rights Dialogue which was held on 20 May 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw. A roundtable on Business and Human Rights was also held in China on 9 September 2013, chaired by the EUSR for Human Rights. Moreover, the EU is seeking to develop bilateral cooperation on corporate social responsibility with China.