

**Question for written answer E-005816/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Problems with the disbursement of EU funds in Denmark

In Denmark, LAG (Local Action Group) actions are regulated by two EU Regulations – 1303/2013 and 1305/2013. LAG groups allocate resources from the EU and the Ministry of Housing, Urban and Rural Affairs to community-based projects that foster development, attractive living conditions and growth in rural and fisheries areas in Denmark.

The Danish AgriFish Agency (*NaturErhvervstyrelsen*) is responsible for the final approval of projects and the disbursement of subsidies. It introduced full document control in 2013, which means that all documents must be submitted for all LAG projects

Unfortunately, there are major problems involved in applying for and receiving these funds. **One of the main complaints made *inter alia* in the Danish media and by local entrepreneurs relates to the very laborious application procedure and long-drawn-out processes due to the fact that even small amounts have to be documented, reported and verified. It is pointed out in this context that the Commission imposes these requirements.** One consequence of this is that businesses, cultural institutions and individuals may be liable for costs – with the uncertainty this entails – over many months.

With implementation of the new EU funds imminent, can the Commission therefore say whether there are corresponding tight controls on the disbursement of structural funds and fisheries funds in the other Member States?

Can the Commission also say whether it believes that applications for, and disbursement of, the new rural and fisheries development programmes could be made simpler and faster, and whether it intends to work on this matter together with the Member States?