

**Question for written answer E-006963/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D)

Subject: Participation of 'expatriates' in the elections of 25 May

At the last European Parliament elections the turn-out was low. Ignorance of the European project, fatigue after years of crisis and austerity policies, the rise of populism, and Euro-scepticism are some of the reasons for the voter apathy. However, while European citizens living within the EU may have participated on only a modest scale, all the indications suggest that the rate of participation was even lower among Europeans living beyond EU borders.

One question that should be asked is whether the EU institutions did everything possible to encourage citizens in this latter category to use their vote and enable them to do so more readily. Furthermore, given the variety of rules governing elections in the 28 Member States, not all European expatriates may have been able to exercise their right to vote on an equal footing.

Can the Commission say how many European citizens living outside the EU cast their votes in the elections of 25 May?

Will it take any steps in the future to encourage 'expatriate' Europeans to participate in elections?