

**Question for written answer E-006966/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (NI)

Subject: Impact of the so-called 'Almunia package' on social housing in Austria

On 20 December 2011 the Commission adopted a package on state aid rules – the so-called 'Almunia package'. Among other things, this provides for state aid for social housing to be made available only to disadvantaged and marginalised groups. This restriction exclusively to low-income groups is not in line with the objectives of housing funding in Austria. In Austria, construction companies, which are subject to the non-profit housing act ('Wohnungsgemeinnützigkeitsgesetz'), have the task of providing people with low-cost housing.

1. Does the Commission uphold the provisions for rules on state aid for social housing under the package, even though they contradict Austrian legislation on a number of points?
2. What recommendations or regulations is the Commission planning to make with regard to public utility housing and/or the non-profit housing act in Austria?
3. What impact does the Commission expect this situation to have on Austria and in particular on the 420 000 subsidised housing units in Vienna?