

**Question for written answer E-007461/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Risk of closure of various Music Conservatories

The Portuguese government has decided to replace the funding allocated to the Private and Cooperative Music Conservatories, moving it from the normal provisions of the State Budget to funding through POPH 2007-2013 (Human Potential Operational Programme), co-funded by the European Social Fund; this alteration creates serious problems for the operation of these institutions, since the rules of this programme (relating to periods, amounts, payment by reimbursement, etc.) do not match the normal needs of the management of these schools and the obligations they have towards teachers and pupils. For example, if the rules of the earlier POPH allow funding only of the actual hours of training given by a teacher, the schools must bear the remaining costs associated with that teacher's contract of employment (holiday pay, among others). Various schools are at risk of closure due to lack of funds, which will mean an irreparable loss to the artistic education of a number of young people, in particular those located in inland areas of the country.

I ask the Commission:

1. Will it be possible to adapt the rules of the POCH 2014-2020 (Human Capital Operational Programme, which replaces the earlier POPH) to the specific needs of the management of schools of this kind?
2. If so, what are the procedures which should be put in place?