

**Question for written answer E-008013/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Funding cutbacks for development aid and outstanding payments

Budget cutbacks in the EU multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 will affect development aid in particular. There will be a 12% reduction in 2015, which will mean EUR 192 million less.

Because of these cuts, the scope of EU development aid projects will be reduced in various areas, including the Sahel, Haiti and the Horn of Africa, not to mention a virtual withdrawal from Latin America.

In addition to these structural reductions, there is a risk that an accumulation of unpaid bills owing to lack of funds will cripple the EuropeAid 2015 budget by 36%. However, the external action budget covering European diplomacy and development aid represents only 6% of the EU budget.

1. What measures does the Commission envisage to ensure that the EU will provide funding for outstanding development aid payments without undermining current projects or calling into question those in preparation?
2. Has the Commission devised alternative solutions to ensure the continuity of development aid and the maintenance of credible operational activity with regard to its partners and in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals?