

**Question for written answer E-008322/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)**

Subject: Financial cuts to the Europe for Citizens programme

The Commission's Europe for Citizens programme has existed since 2004 in order to support initiatives that foster democratic participation in the EU agenda and the involvement of citizens and civil societies in the process of European integration. Today, the programme focuses on funding 'European remembrance' projects and on activities that bring together EU citizens by setting up town twinning arrangements, town networks and civil society projects.

During the last legislative term (2007-2013), the programme received an already limited budget of EUR 215 million. For 2014-2020, that budget was reduced to EUR 186 million following the official adoption of the programme on 14 April 2014 by the Council. This programme aims by definition to 'bring Europe closer to its citizens', yet the EU decided to cut its funding at a highly critical time when citizens are expressing deep distrust regarding the EU institutions.

1. What measures will be taken to allocate more space and resources to European civil society organisations, given their instrumental role in the construction of the European project as envisaged in Article 11 of the Treaty of Lisbon?
2. What will be the future of the Europe for Citizens programme, and how will its budget be allocated each year between 2014 and 2020?