

**Question for written answer E-008886/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Olaf Stuger (NI)**

Subject: EUR 7 billion wrongly spent by the European Union

In its 2013 annual report on the EU budget, the European Court of Auditors indicated that around EUR 7 billion of EU funds was wrongly spent last year.

Last year, the EU spent EUR 148 billion, which means that the error rate was 4.7%.

The Court observed that the entire EU budget system was excessively oriented towards the maximum spending of available funds, placing compliance with rules and achievement of results in second and third place only.

Most of the errors traditionally occur in areas of expenditure jointly administered by the Commission with the national and local authorities, accounting for 80% of expenditure, with an error rate of 5.2%, rising to 6.9% in the regional policy, energy and transport sectors and 6.7% in the rural development, environment, fisheries and health sectors.

1. Can the Commission give a clear indication of which Member States are at fault, clearly exercising little or no control over the spending of EU funds?
2. What are the consequences for Member States that spend EU funds wrongly?
3. What action will the Commission take to prevent EU funds being spent wrongly in future?