

**Question for written answer E-009081/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Davor Škrlec (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Economic value of volunteering

The importance of voluntary work is, in all its aspects, woven into the EU's system of values. Volunteers make up a far higher proportion of the labour force than is generally recognised, and voluntary work thus has significant economic value. However, there are still no uniform methods for measuring voluntary work in the EU.

There are more than 100 million volunteers in the EU, and the contribution to GDP accounted for by voluntary work is estimated to be about 5%. Given that voluntary work is having an increasingly recognisable influence on economic trends and GDP, but data on that point are most often ignored and not included in economic statistics, the economic value of volunteering, in Member States and at EU level, needs to be measured accurately. In Member States where the calculations in question are performed, there is no agreement in principle on the way of gauging the economic value of voluntary work for the country concerned, and its impact on GDP varies greatly from one Member State to the next.

1. Will the Commission introduce a uniform system for measuring the economic value of volunteering at EU level, covering all the Member States?
2. Has it embarked on the work of adopting standard EU provisions for measuring the economic value of volunteering in Member States and at EU level? If so, what is the current state of play?