

**Question for written answer E-009814/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Participatory processes in the European Union

The European Union provides a model for public participation and exchanges between citizens and institutions when it comes to implementing programmes, especially in areas such as citizenship and education. Calls for proposals for projects, such as those under Horizon 2020, help ensure efficient and effective management of public resources in the EU.

Furthermore, various mechanisms for public participation exist on a pan-European level, such as public consultations, the European Citizens' Initiative, the right to petition the European Parliament and the right to lodge a complaint with the European Ombudsman.

On 9 November 2014, Catalonia organised a participatory process on its political future, in which 2.3 million people participated. The Spanish State denounced that participatory process to the Spanish Public Prosecutor's Office, which tried to prevent it from taking place.

1. Does the Commission think that participatory processes enhance the dynamics of democracy within political systems?
2. Does it feel that it should encourage more votes by citizens and other forms of public participation on matters of general interest?
3. Has the European Union adopted a position on the democratic exercise conducted by Catalans on 9 November 2014?