

**Question for written answer E-009870/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)

Subject: Consultation and funding for capital cities through URBACT

The URBACT funding programme is a vital source of revenue for capital city municipalities and local councils in the EU which serves as a tool for making EU structural and investment funding more visible to citizens. As correctly stated on the official URBACT website under the heading 'Connecting cities, building successes', an EU-wide consultation process on the new programme was organised in all Member States with: (a) stakeholders in the programme; (b) EU-level institutional stakeholders; (c) national consultants at Member-State level, based on the final draft of the operational programme; and (d) the general public in each Member State.

1. Given that this was an obligatory process for beneficiary Member States, can the Commission confirm whether consultations with national consultants and the general public actually took place in Malta, and if so, when did these consultations take place?
2. How can Malta participate more actively in the interregional cooperation networks?
3. Can the Commission confirm that the Maltese Government will ring-fence 5 % of its national programme allocations for the purposes of URBACT, as announced by Commissioner Hahn during the first quarter of 2014 and reaffirmed during the follow-up meeting of mayors of EU capital cities in Rome on October 1 2014?