

**Question for written answer E-009946/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)

Subject: European Green Capital Award and small capital cities

The European Green Capital Award is presented to a city at the forefront of environmentally friendly urban management to promote good practices in achieving higher standards in sustainable urban development, and in pioneering innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

This year, cities across Europe with at least 100 000 inhabitants were eligible to apply for the 2016 title. In previous years, only cities with a population of 200 000 or more were eligible. While this is a marked improvement, in that it allows for a greater number of applicant cities, it does not, however, address the fact that much smaller cities – such as the capital city of Malta, Valletta, with a population of less than 10 000 – are still not eligible.

Given that recognition for exemplary environmental standards is not restricted by the size of the countries considered, with no distinction made between the largest Member State and the smallest one, is the Commission considering withdrawing the 'one size fits all' approach which, in this context, prevents the capital city of a Member State – which, incidentally, will be the EU Capital City for 2018 – from competing for such a prestigious award?

Would the Commission consider accepting all Member State capital cities eligible as candidates for this award?