

**Question for written answer E-010426/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jarosław Wałęsa (PPE)**

Subject: 116 000 missing child hotline

The Commission set up a free 24/7 hotline (Decision 2007/116/EC) for children and adults to obtain psychological, legal and social help in missing child cases, i.e. runaways, under-age migrants who go missing, children abducted by a parent or third party.

The 116 000 numbers are a valuable source of information on the circumstances, status and details of missing children. They play an important role in carrying out preventive action which goes well beyond the responsibilities and powers of the police, and they raise awareness in society. It is now possible to dial the number from all Member States and from Albania and Serbia.

The Missing Children Europe organisation has introduced procedures to enable effective collaboration between the hotline services of different countries in cross-border cases. In 2012-2013, the number of calls made to 116 000 hotlines increased by 179%.

At the end of 2014, funding from the Commission's Daphne Programme, which has covered the cost of running the hotlines in 2012-2014, will expire. Further Commission funding is essential because without support none of the organisations running the hotline services will be able to continue to deal with the issue of missing children.

Under Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, EU financial support may be continued under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.

Why is the Commission ending financial support for such a vital service?