

**Question for written answer E-010427/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jarosław Wałęsa (PPE)**

Subject: European Year of Identity and Solidarity 2016

The aim of European Years is to raise awareness of certain topics. Europe ought to shine a light on how unique it is in celebrating diversity and tolerance of others, intensive cultural dialogue and courageous discourse on values. Everyone should feel equally entitled to speak their mind when it comes to common European issues, and everyone should feel jointly responsible for resolving those issues.

The shape of Europe today is an achievement that has much to do with Polish history and culture. The city of Gdańsk, its centres of learning, its residents, and the traditions of openness to others, tolerance and freedom so intrinsically linked with its heritage as a port city have played a vitally important role in this process.

In 2016 it will be 400 years since the shape of the Europe we know today was defined, and 300 years since the commissioning of empirical research into mapping the borders of Europe. That research was carried out by Filip Kluwer, a geographer from Gdańsk. It is important to remember the historic contribution made by Gdańsk and Poland to building the foundations and outlining the shape of today's Europe, and their contemporary role in inspiring aspirations to freedom, in stimulating a sense of solidarity, and in removing the borders between peoples and nations.

I should like to draw the Commission's attention to the need to promote the ideas of mutual tolerance and respect that are vital elements of Europe's identity.

With this in mind:

1. Is there a possibility that the Commission could support an initiative aiming to designate 2016 as the European Year of Identity and Solidarity?
2. What procedures need to be fulfilled with a view to making this subject the leitmotiv for 2016?