

**Question for written answer E-010498/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bogdan Brunon Wenta (PPE)

Subject: Keeping the 116000 helpline open

116000 is the missing child hotline set up pursuant to Commission Decision 2007/116/EC. The hotline is free of charge and open 24 hours a day. Children and adults can use it to obtain psychological, legal and social help in missing child cases, such as runaways, children who are abducted by a parent or third party, or unaccompanied under-age migrants who go missing.

In 2012-2013, the number of calls made to 116000 hotlines increased by 179%. Despite the huge demand for this service, the future of the 116000 helpline is uncertain. At the end of 2014, funding from the Commission's Daphne Programme, which covered the cost of running the hotlines between 2012 and 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.

With this in mind:

1. Does the Commission intend to continue providing financial support for the 116000 helpline?
2. How does the Commission envisage the helpline continuing to operate without financial support?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the operation of the helpline up to now? Does the Commission consider it to be useful?