

**Question for written answer E-000714/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The impact of the cohesion funds

The cohesion funds have been and still are one of the EU's central instruments, serving the goal of achieving the greatest possible economic and social convergence among Member States.

It is true that the crisis that began in 2007 has shown that the asymmetries and imbalances between countries and regions are still excessive, but it is impossible to know how great they would be without the cohesion policy.

However, one wonders to what extent certain Community aid might have aggravated the imbalances instead of alleviating them, given the perverse circularity that sometimes appears in customary economic behaviour. For example, a transport infrastructure that links a powerful industrial centre with one that is not, in general ends up benefiting the exports of the former, beyond the intentions of redressing the balance that were the grounds for making the investment.

1. Has the Commission calculated the possible 'reverse impact' of the ESF and ERDF?
2. More generally, has the Commission calculated the possible impact on inflation, and therefore the competitiveness, of the countries receiving the funds, if ultimately the funds have merely boosted domestic demand rather than increased the ability to generate competitive supply?