

**Question for written answer E-000724/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Evaluation of the URBAN initiative

Cities play a vital role as hubs of cultural, political and socio-economic exchange and development, and are home to 80 % of EU citizens.

As a consequence, urban issues, in particular cohesion, are a key consideration in EU policies. The URBAN initiative, launched in 1994, was designed to encourage innovative, inclusive urban development policies in inner-city areas and neighbourhoods in crisis.

What is the Commission's assessment of the URBAN initiative's performance over the past 10 years, and what are its forecasts and objectives for the plan in the forthcoming financial period?