

**Question for written answer E-001717/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL), Jens Nilsson (S&D), Sylvie Guillaume (S&D), Jordi Sebastià (Verts/ALE), Sofia Ribeiro (PPE), Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL), Patrizia Toia (S&D), Maria Arena (S&D), Marc Tarabella (S&D) and Louis Michel (ALDE)

Subject: Statute for a European mutual society

For the past few years, the EU institutions have been discussing the issue of a statute for a European mutual society. Parliament has already passed a number of resolutions in support of such a statute, and in March 2011 it adopted a written declaration calling for the introduction of EU statutes for mutual societies, foundations and associations. In March 2013, Parliament also adopted a report entitled 'A Statute for European mutual societies', in which it called on the Commission to submit, as soon as possible, proposals which would enable mutual societies to operate throughout Europe and across borders.

The Commission subsequently launched a public consultation procedure – the results of which were published in September 2013 – followed by an impact assessment in July 2013. The findings of the consultation procedure highlighted two factors which demonstrate that mutual societies are capable of protecting their members' interests: the effectiveness of their governance model, and their resilience in the face of economic crises. It is also clear that there is a lack of awareness and a reluctance to acknowledge the benefits of this business model.

Can the Commission explain why the aforementioned impact assessment has not yet been published? When does it intend to publish a legislative proposal on a statute for a European mutual society, in accordance with the undertaking it gave at the 'Social entrepreneurs: have your say!' conference held in Strasbourg in January 2014?