

**Question for written answer E-002768/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: Sparsely populated islands

The European Union has a total of 266 islands with less than 50 inhabitants. Of such islands, 38 are in Croatia.

It is known that life on such islands is extremely difficult due to poor transport links and a lack of social and health care.

Does the Commission intend to encourage a special assistance programme for European islands inhabited by fewer than 50 residents in order to preserve life on them?