

**Question for written answer E-003245/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: Adoption of the operational programme for cross-border cooperation Croatia - Serbia  
2014 - 2020

Cross-border cooperation programmes were an important instrument for Croatia in the pre-accession period in the development of administrative capabilities and absorption capacity and in adjusting to the way of working when it came to the EU's Cohesion Policy. We can view in a similar way the cross-border cooperation programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 – 2020, which can play an important role for the candidate country. In addition, a programme of this kind is also important for the regions of Croatia bordering Serbia, all of which count as underdeveloped. The programme is of great importance in developing good neighbourly relations, particularly in view of the war that took place less than 20 years ago.

The final draft of the cooperation programme was agreed in November 2014 and was submitted to the European Commission.

Has the European Commission approved i.e. adopted that operational programme?

When can we expect the operating start of the use of resources by stakeholders, which implies first calls for proposals of projects to be financed from the above cross-border programme?