

**Question for written answer E-003711/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Decision not to provide support for the Festróia Festival

Festróia – the International Film Festival in Setúbal - has been held for 30 years and is one of the oldest and most important film festivals in Portugal and the most important in the Setúbal region.

Unfortunately, the organisers have been forced to cancel the 31st Festival, which would have taken place in 2015. The organisation has revealed that Festróia, which always received maximum support in terms of European funds (in this case, cultural support from the Creative Europe programme), has not received any support for this year's event.

Paradoxically, the European Commission has stated that it intends to invest more and more in the Creative Europe programme, particularly in the area of cinema.

In a region heavily affected by unemployment and poverty, this Festival clearly plays an important role in the spread of Portuguese and European cinema and in creating access to culture.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. What are the reasons for not allocating funds to enable Festróia to go ahead?
2. Does it not consider that this European Commission decision contributes not to the cultural enrichment of the population but rather to limiting their access to culture?