

**Question for written answer E-004715/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Preservation of traditional crafts

Traditional crafts are part of the economic and cultural heritage of every country, hence the need to preserve and develop the ancient indigenous crafts and trades. To prevent ancient crafts from dying out it would be good to create mechanisms for transfer of these skills to younger generations, promote vocational training for such crafts and support stronger market positioning of such products.

Traditional occupations such as coppersmith, potter, stove builder, sieve maker, smelter, honeycake baker, milliner, hatmaker, bookbinder, gunsmith-engraver, wigmaker, basketmaker, weaver, chandler, puppeteer and clockmaker, represent our cultural heritage and identity. It is increasingly difficult for traditional crafts products to compete with cheap industrial products, hence the need to make additional efforts in raising consumer awareness about the value and quality of indigenous traditional crafts. Some crafts that exist today will be in a similar position in the future due to technological progress.

My question to the Commission: Are there any European programmes which encourage and fund the conservation, development and market positioning of traditional crafts and products?