Question for written answer E-007575/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Follow-up question to No E-000719/15

As they coincided completely with the objective to reduce ‘disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions’, we feel that the questions we raised remain relevant.

GDP is a measurement of the generation of wealth in a given space and time, not the disposable income of the people of a region, who may be poorer (less wealthy) than the people of another region with a lower GDP, either due to fiscal solidarity or the ‘expatriation’ of dividends.

Some South American countries have seen their GDP increase significantly as a result of foreign investments which, in the end, have resulted in a decrease in people’s income due to the expatriation of dividends. As for Europe, and Spain more specifically, the Balearic Islands would be an example of an area with high GDP but low incomes, which is an accumulated result of fiscal transfers and the expatriation of dividends. And its high GDP decreases its access to cohesion funds, condemning the islands to a development model based on the ‘single crop’ of tourism, which perpetuates their low rate of development.

In light of the foregoing, we repeat:

1. Would it not be appropriate for the Commission to analyse and take into consideration disparities between GDP and disposable income?

2. Shouldn’t the Commission analyse the impact of its cohesion funds on these disparities?