

**Question for written answer E-008961/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jean-François Jalkh (NI) and Marie-Christine Arnautu (NI)

Subject: Respect for Burundi sovereignty

Various parliamentary and local elections and a presidential election are due to be held in Burundi over the next two months. However, there have been outbreaks of violence since the end of April. Some opponents of current president Pierre Nkurunziza cannot bear the idea of his winning a third term in office. Even if one may indeed entertain doubts as to whether the elections in Burundi will be fair and transparent, the European Union has no right of scrutiny of the internal policy of a foreign country. Nonetheless, where there has been serious disagreement, the States have not hesitated to act by suspending their financial aid, as Switzerland or the Netherlands have done.

Does the Commission intend to follow the example of Switzerland and the Netherlands by suspending financial aid to Burundi?

In these times of austerity, does the Commission intend to limit financial aid to third countries, so that the weight of budgetary restrictions does not fall on European citizens alone?