

**Question for written answer E-009048/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Support to Croatia in strengthening its absorption capacity

It is well known that in my first addresses in the European Parliament to the former Commissioner Hahn and later to the new Commissioner Crețu I warned of the problem of absorption of EU funds in Member States and the need for the European Commission to become more actively involved in solving the problem by providing support to those Member States which have not built a quality system for the absorption of EU funds. In this connection I support the fact that, after coming into office at the end of last year, the Commissioner established a working group for countries that after the withdrawal of EU funds in the 2007 to 2013 allocation period remained below the European average. The Croatian media have reported that Croatia was assessed as being the worst in the group of countries also including Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, on whom help was imposed for the strengthening of administrative and building of institutional capacities in order to increase their absorption of funds.

- Is this information correct, i.e. what different problems have been observed in the case of Croatia?
- What kind of specific assistance is intended for the said group of countries which includes Croatia?