

**Question for written answer E-010071/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: EU and Antarctic territories

The Antarctic Treaty signed in Washington in 1959, which internationalised the Antarctic territories, nowadays counts 52 parties. 12 of 29 of the treaty's consultative parties and 8 of its 23 non-consultative parties are EU Member States. The Antarctic lands benefit from territorial allocation under the European Development Fund.

In view of the need for the EU to play a stronger global role, as outlined in the Commission's Work Programme for 2015, as well as the need to strengthen the Union's credibility in the eyes of third countries and to legitimise the EU itself as a major global actor, particularly in the field of environmental protection:

What are the intentions of the EU's current policy agenda within the Antarctic Treaty system?

What measures can the Commission take in order to participate in the governance mechanism of the Antarctic and, possibly, to accede to the Antarctic Treaty?