

**Question for written answer E-010628/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**João Ferreira (GUE/NGL) and Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Electioneering dinner paid for using PRODER funds

Articles in the Portuguese press claim that one of the parties making up the coalition government paid for a dinner for a hundred people out of PRODER (Portuguese Rural Development Programme) funds. Although the dinner was allegedly held to announce the programme's results, the fact that Portugal has forthcoming elections and that the dinner was attended by several leading members of the party in question (even some with no direct responsibilities for agriculture and rural development), including the deputy prime minister, implies that the event was being used for electioneering and propaganda purposes, and it is clearly inappropriate for public funds (in this case intended for rural development) to be used for such ends.

Is it customary for rural development programme funds to be used for such purposes? Is the Commission aware of similar situations in other Member States?

Is this type of event usually available for scrutiny in programme assessment reports?