

**Question for written answer E-013771/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Legislative deadlock on the European Foundation Statute (EFS)

Foundations in Europe face various difficulties linked to civil and tax law, which hinder their cross-border operations. The Commission had a feasibility study drawn up and carried out a public consultation, following which it included the European Foundation Statute (EFS) among the priorities for the Single Market Act and submitted a proposal for a regulation, backed by the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament.

Between 2012 and 2014, the Council embarked on a revision of the EFS which took account of Member States' concerns as regards tax provisions and the minimum level of assets required. Its proposed text was put forward in 2014, but the 28 countries were unable to reach a consensus.

In the absence of a decision by the Council, the Commission withdrew its legislative initiative in December 2014. What would the Commission say to European citizens in order to justify the amount of work and resources devoted to the initiative since 2007?

What alternative measures is the Commission considering to facilitate cross-border activities and cooperation among foundations in the European Union, thereby helping to foster economic and social cohesion in the EU?