

**Question for written answer E-000170/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Olaf Stuger (ENF)**

Subject: Squandering of another billion euros by Brussels

Recently it was announced with great pride that another €1 billion in tax revenue had been allocated to a European budget. Commissioner Çretu from Romania, who is responsible for regional development, is very happy to have been able to allocate money from the Regional Funds for this<sup>1</sup>. Exactly what purpose the extra money is supposed to serve is fairly unclear.

Money from the European Regional Development Fund has been used, inter alia, to launch a project costing €3.8 million to clean the River Danube along the border between Romania and Ukraine.

1. How much tax revenue from the Regional Funds (derived mainly from Dutch taxpayers) has been used for the new budget of €1 billion? Can the Commission indicate exactly what results the extra money is intended to produce?
2. Does the Commission consider it sensible to spend €3.8 million in tax revenue (derived mainly from Dutch taxpayers) on Romania and Ukraine – two extremely corrupt countries with seriously inadequate ratings in the Corruption Index of Transparency International, namely 4.3 and 2.6 respectively?
3. Does the Commissioner actually have any time to spare to monitor the lawfulness and effectiveness of the use to which the tax revenue is being put, bearing in mind that she is the most frequently absent of all the Commissioners, that she combines missions on official business with recreational travel and that within the space of a single year her staff has been halved<sup>2</sup>?

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[http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/europe/60931/eu\\_to\\_invest\\_1\\_billion\\_in\\_regions\\_along\\_its\\_external\\_borders#.VpD7ePnhCUk](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/europe/60931/eu_to_invest_1_billion_in_regions_along_its_external_borders#.VpD7ePnhCUk)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.demorgen.be/politiek/-vreemde-werkgewoontes-van-roemeense-eurocommissaris-jagen-staf-weg-ba9d1922>