

**Question for written answer E-000661/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: European agencies and subsidiarity

The task of the European agencies – public legal entities which are separate from the institutions – is to provide expert services in the various fields of European political activity. Because there is no specific legal framework to govern their activities, they are created on a case-by-case basis and are distributed geographically between the Member States. In reality, their main function is to swell the ranks of EU officials dedicated to the institutions. These agencies act independently and are not regulated in any way. Their fields of competence are multiplying and their work is followed closely by a number of pressure groups (political parties; social, industrial or sectoral lobbyists).

The problem is that they are not restricted in any way and are giving themselves all kinds of convoluted – sometimes redundant – competences, thereby blurring the principle of subsidiarity.

When will these agencies be properly governed and their influence over European and national policy curbed?