

**Question for written answer E-002510/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Negotiations with Switzerland on the Alpine region

Parliament wishes to put in place specific provisions for the European region known as the 'Alpine region'.

Although this is one of the richest regions in the world and among the most dynamic, innovative and competitive in Europe in economic terms, with unique natural and geographic characteristics, it nevertheless faces significant problems which require a joint response. These issues include demographic trends, climate risks and the globalisation of the economy.

The European Union is therefore planning a European response to these challenges.

This region extends into several EU Member States (France, Germany, Austria and Italy), but is, of course, mainly in Switzerland.

Although agreements are in place with Switzerland and it enjoys special relations with the EU, it is not a Member State and therefore is under no obligation to comply with decisions taken by Brussels.

Under these circumstances, how does the Commission intend to put in place joint provisions?