

**Question for written answer E-004867/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Political influence on the uptake of EU funding

Given the instability within the Croatian Government, there is talk that a possible fresh election would lead to huge losses in terms of the uptake of EU funding amounting to more than EUR 1 billion. The process of utilising EU funding once operational programmes have been adopted should, to my mind, be shielded from dependence on political processes and influences. I also take the view that the well-being of citizens brought about through EU funds should not be jeopardised by the ineptitude or erraticism of national political elites. Furthermore, I consider the uptake of EU funding to be a matter of common concern and the responsibility of the proper national and European authorities.

That being the case, to what extent are political influences on national ruling authorities, of the kind described above, known to interfere with, and reduce, the capacity to take up European funding?

Does the Commission have any means of ensuring that EU funding can be put to use at national level without being hampered by political instability?