

**Question for written answer E-004868/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Basic administrative reasons for excluding projects from the Slovenia-Croatia cooperation programme

Our office was approached by potential funding recipients at the time of the initial deadline, 11 March 2016, for submission of project applications under the Slovenia-Croatia Interreg VA cooperation programme. There is great dissatisfaction, and appeals may be lodged against the decision whereby numerous projects were rejected and thus excluded from the final competitive procedure for administrative reasons; there were, however, no clearly defined criteria determining the basic administrative reasons for excluding projects. According to the information available, two thirds of the projects concerned were rejected on account of the overly stringent conditions. Applicants consider this to be a poor method of evaluation, since it makes it difficult to find a place for more of the different kinds of excellent creative projects, which instead fall by the wayside.

- Is it the case that in the above-mentioned competition, the basic administrative reasons, whereby projects were excluded from the subsequent stages of the evaluation procedure, were not properly defined?
- To what extent can the Commission use its influence to ensure that when projects are evaluated in competitive procedures under cross-border cooperation programmes, the criterion of project quality is given greater weight in those cases where fewer administrative errors occur in the application process and these do not detract from the quality and usefulness of projects?