

**Question for written answer E-009397/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Structural funds and the art of cowbell-making

On 1 December 2015, UNESCO added the manufacture of cowbells in Portugal to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

A year after that classification, cowbell manufacturing in Portugal is still awaiting funding for a project to safeguard it. Alcáçovas, in the Alentejo region, is the 'capital' of cowbell manufacturing. Portugal's nomination of this endangered traditional profession was led by the Regional Tourism Authority of Alentejo and Ribatejo (ERT-AR), in collaboration with the Municipal Council of Viana do Alentejo and the Parish Council of Alcáçovas, in the district of Évora.

This project, designated the 'Activation of Intangible Heritage', was submitted to the 2020 Alentejo Regional Operational Programme and is intended to 'put into action the safeguarding and management plan' approved by UNESCO to ensure the survival of this art. The objective is to boost the economy through cowbell manufacturing, which could create jobs and bring innovation and development to one of the poorest regions of the EU.

Is the Commission aware of and has it already assessed this project? What other lines of support are available for developing the project?