

**Question for written answer E-004748/2017
to the Council**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Implications of Brexit for EU structural funds

The structural funds have been a cornerstone of the European project for decades, enabling a number of Member States and many regions to accelerate significantly their socio-economic development.

As a result, they are helping to generate hundreds of thousands of jobs and hence combat poverty.

Despite this, however, the development gap between European regions remains high and poverty is a problem that has not yet been resolved within the European Union.

It is therefore still essential to deploy the structural funds effectively.

In this respect, Brexit and its financial consequences pose an undeniable threat to the level of funding available and the distribution thereof under future programmes.

In view of this, what principles will guide Council deliberations and actions in response to the various challenges arising?