

**Question for written answer E-005413/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Local and regional trade

Across Europe the centres of many small and medium-sized towns are being abandoned. The most visible evidence of this phenomenon is empty shops, due to more serious problems such as rapid urban development, de-industrialisation and various reforms at administrative and metropolitan level. In some areas, abandonment has reached 25%. Revitalising and regenerating these areas can only be achieved by global strategies that address all aspects: trade, living and green spaces, public transport, and so on.

What plans does the Commission have to collaborate with Member States and develop projects to revitalise small town centres, at the same time stimulating trade in local and traditional products, but also retaining the characteristics of these areas?