

**Question for written answer E-005763/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

Subject: 119 million people in poverty and the Commission prefers cricket

119 million EU citizens are at risk of poverty<sup>1</sup>.

On 23 May 2017, the Commission granted EUR 742 000 in aid to Caritas for a period of four years (EUR 185 000 per year) to fund social action at EU level<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, according to the British newspaper *The Telegraph*, in only a few years the Commission has given more than EUR 100 million to Vanuatu for remarkable projects such as learning how to play extremely important sports such as cricket. Furthermore, in 2010 the Commission granted EUR 150 000 in funds to the Vanuatu Cricket Association to teach 'the basics of the game of cricket' to schoolchildren on this remote island in the Pacific<sup>3</sup>.

1. Has the Commission recovered the funds which were thoughtlessly given to this cricket association?
2. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure that needs external to the EU are compared in advance to needs within the EU, before EU money is tossed away?

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<sup>1</sup> [goo.gl/bFj2mY](http://goo.gl/bFj2mY)

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7952&visible=0>;  
Grants awarded as a result of the Call for proposals VP/2016/012

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/10502941/Lost-in-paradise-the-EUs-embassy-in-the-South-Pacific.html>