

**Question for written answer E-000758/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Future of the 'Europe for Citizens' programme

Civil society organisations (CSOs) are vital to European democracy. Their work, particularly in the field of human rights, is key to ensuring the defence and implementation of the values espoused in the EU treaties. Organisations in this field, such as the European Association for the Defence of Human Rights (AEDH) and its members, also promote active citizenship, and their pro-EU stances contribute to bringing the Union closer to its citizens.

CSOs are, however, facing mounting problems, particularly concerning funding. This increases the pressure on them in a context of an already decreasing civil society space in Europe. Despite this, the 'Europe for Citizens' programme, which remains an important source of support for CSOs, is expected to decrease by nearly 50 % in 2018-2020 in comparison to the 2014-2017 budget.

- 1) What will be the exact amount devoted to 'Europe for Citizens' for the period 2018-2020?
- 2) Can the Commission provide an updated calendar for the programme to provide candidates with better visibility?
- 3) Will AEDH be among the beneficiaries of 'Europe for Citizens' for the period 2018-2020, thereby allowing it to pursue its activities in encouraging the democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level?