

Question for written answer P-003395/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Isabelle Thomas (S&D)

Subject: Consequences, with regard to the payments crisis, of the revision of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework

In the explanatory memorandum accompanying its proposal, submitted on 20 January 2015, to revise the 2014-2020 MFF, the Commission pointed out that prefinancing appropriations not used in 2014, because of delays in adopting operational programmes, have been used to reduce the backlog of unpaid bills from the 2007-2013 period.

Accordingly, so that unpaid bills as at 1 January 2014 total 'only' EUR 24.7 billion, the Commission has reallocated appropriations earmarked for prefinancing in 2014 so as to cover commitments for the 2007-2013 period. Prefinancing appropriations not used in 2014 will therefore be transferred to cover payments in 2015, coming on top of payments to cover 2007-2013 commitments and initial payments relating to the 2014-2020 period, which will have a marked impact on payments in 2015.

The Commission concedes in this connection that 'the reverse operation could be done, if need be, in 2015 to cover the pre-financings'.

Does the Commission mean by that statement that it is already anticipating a major increase in unpaid bills for the 2007-2013 period that is at least proportional to the prefinancing which did not take place in 2014?

Can the Commission state the precise amount for prefinancing scheduled for 2014 which will be transferred to 2015?