

**Question for written answer P-010797/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Discriminatory principles for NGO funding

28 NGO Platforms from various EU Member States have expressed their concern about 'indirect discriminating principles' which have a direct effect on access to funding for 13 Member States, including Malta.

The NGOs claim that the Commission's DEAR funding scheme requires EU organisations to follow the same guidelines when applying for funds irrespective of their size and the EU Member State they come from. This obviously results in administrative barriers for smaller NGOs whose average annual turnover is EUR 30 000.

The Commission's decision to incentivise multi-country initiatives based on a specific theme by raising the minimum grant size to encourage NGOs to work together in consortia has resulted in the fact that the grant threshold may be prohibitive for the EU-13 NGOs that find it difficult if not impossible to match the 5 % co-funding required. This would mean an estimate of EUR 50 000 per NGO for every EUR 1 million project.

Could the Commission clarify:

1. Whether it is aware of the discriminatory effects of such a practice?
2. What mitigating practices, if any, will the Commission take to ensure that all NGOs, irrespective of their size, are treated equally and are granted the same opportunities to apply for funding?