

**Question for written answer P-002813/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: European regional interest networks

Europe's regions often come together to form specific interest networks which enable them to promote themselves more effectively. Among those much appreciated and well-known organisations are the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Assembly of European Wine-producing Regions (AREV), the Association of European Regions for Products of Origin (AREPO), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and many others. All these organisations actively promote European unity. Owing to the financial crisis, many regions have started to abandon their membership of particular organisations. This obviously does not help to strengthen the European idea.

Does the Commission intend to make financial contributions to these regional networks to ensure that their activities are not, after many years of success, cast into doubt?