

**Question for written answer E-6114/2010
to the Council**
Rule 117
Christophe Béchu (PPE)

Subject: Scope of the European External Action Service

Along with the introduction of the permanent presidency of the European Council and of the post of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, one of the major innovations of the Lisbon Treaty, and one which Lady Catherine Ashton – together with the Belgian Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union – views as her top priority, is that of creating the European External Action Service.

The scope of the 'joint diplomatic service', which is one of the issues underlying that service, is still under discussion. France would like to see the service being tasked with supervising the strategic programming of various financial instruments, such as the European Development Fund. That approach centres above all on strengthening the major role the European External Action Service has to play within the European institutional triangle.

What is the Council's position on the issue of the scope of the European External Action Service?