

**Question for written answer E-9478/2010  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Riikka Manner (ALDE)**

Subject: Article 174

In September 2010 the European Parliament adopted by a clear majority a resolution concerning the development of, and challenges facing, mountain regions, islands, border regions and sparsely populated northern areas. The resolution strongly supported continuing specific funding for these areas and recognised the overall importance for the development of the European Union as a whole of regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural handicaps. Parliament is thus sending a clear message to the Commission, which is preparing the forthcoming guidelines for cohesion policy after 2013.

Specific aid under Article 174 is of vital importance for some Member States. That being so, how does the Commission propose to take account of the areas covered by Article 174 and their specific funding in cohesion policy after 2013?