

**Question for written answer E-003850/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Isabelle Durant (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Use of Urban II funds by the municipality of La Louvière in Belgium

The Belgian press has recently drawn attention to the use of Urban II funds for purely political and self-interested purposes by the municipality of La Louvière since the 1990s. In particular, the non-profit-making organisations ProGes (in La Louvière) and EcoMons (in Mons) are reported to have used EU subsidies to create fictitious jobs and to cover unjustified expenses: leasing luxury cars, foreign holidays, etc.

Could the Commission send me all the information at its disposal so that the full extent of this case of misappropriation of funds can be brought to light? What explanations has the municipality of La Louvière given regarding the use of these funds? Exactly how much money is involved? Is an investigation being conducted by your services? Does this case fall within the remit of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)? How is the management of URBAN funds monitored by your services? Can penalties be imposed?