

**Question for written answer E-006246/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Kyriakos Mavronikolas (S&D)**

Subject: Information from the Bureau of Investigative Journalism

Once again, a recent study by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism has revealed that the Commission is spending exorbitant sums on unnecessary expenses, which is contrary to the ideals and values that the European Union has always upheld. The study shows that tens of thousands of euros are wasted on expenses (for receptions, travel and hotel accommodation over several days) that ought to cost a lot less. Proof of the Commission's extravagance has already been provided in the past with the revelation that former commissioners, who had since found extremely well-paid jobs, continued to receive a very high monthly allowance on the pretext that this would help them achieve a normal transition into the private sector.

Could the Commission answer the following question:

Bearing the above in mind, along with the extent of the economic recession, and knowing that a great many of our citizens have been severely hit by unemployment, can the Commission claim that the public has confidence in it?