

**Question for written answer E-011536/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Reform of EU state aid rules

It is a recognised fact that the Member States and their public authorities are in the best position to properly serve their citizens, as was underlined in a recent Parliament resolution. Thus they are responsible for determining the precise extent and the way in which services of general economic interest are provided. As also noted in the same resolution, the national, regional and local authorities are responsible for managing, commissioning and organising such services.

In this context, can the Commission provide the following information:

1. What preparations are being made to reform EU state aid rules whilst respecting the subsidiarity principle and the principle of each Member State's sovereignty, taking into account the particular role played by services of general economic interest in such key areas as public transport, public water supply and wastewater treatment services, communications and energy, as well as public health, state education, social housing and social protection?
2. What will be done to ensure that countries with more fragile economies and/or so-called financial assistance programmes boost state aid to maintain quality public services without needing to resort to privatisation, which always has the effect of undermining the quality of such services, as experience has shown?
3. What state aid has been granted over the past year, broken down by Member State and by sector?