

**Question for written answer E-001800/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Jiří Havel (S&D)**

**Subject:** Suspension of payments for three Operational Programmes in the Czech Republic  
(Transport, Environment and Regional OP Northwest)

The sixth and penultimate year of the current budgetary period (2007-2013) has commenced. In the context of the EU Structural Funds, Parliament is debating the 2010 report of the European Court of Auditors, which shows that the Czech Republic is one of the Member States with the highest error rates for projects submitted (along with Spain and Italy). This is also borne out by the fact that, in 2011, the Commission (DG Regio) suspended payments for three Operational Programmes (Transport, Environment and Regional OP Northwest).

- How does the Commission evaluate the steps taken by the Czech Republic to restore the payments under the aforementioned Operational Programmes?
- What is the real status of the Czech Republic's absorption of EU Structural Funds for each programme?
- In the Commission's view, what are the biggest problems that the Czech Republic has when absorbing EU Structural Funds?
- What steps should the Czech Republic take, in the Commission's view, in order to make the absorption of structural funds possible under the suspended OPs?
- To what extent does the Commission believe there is a real risk that the Czech Republic will not absorb funds from the aforementioned OPs, or will lose them?
- Are any other Operational Programmes at risk?