

**Question for written answer E-011252/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Jan Mulder (ALDE)

Subject: Spain's decision to issue residence permits to Russians

Spain's State Secretary for Trade, Jaime García-Legaz, has announced that he is willing to issue residence permits to foreign nationals who buy a home for more than €160 000. In this way, Spain hopes to promote the sale of thousands of unoccupied new homes. The Spanish authorities are mainly hoping that Chinese or Russian nationals will buy them.

1. Can the Commission say whether Spain is entirely free to do this?
2. May people who are issued with such residence permits also settle outside Spain?
3. Under EU law, is it permitted to issue residence permits in this way?