

**Question for written answer E-000212/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D)

Subject: Recommendation regarding European Capitals of Culture

In July 2012, the Commission launched a fresh proposal for EU action in respect of European Capitals of Culture over the period 2020-2033, which is currently being debated in the European Parliament.

In this context, reference is made to the importance of political stability, this being something which might affect the strategy itself, as well as having considerable budgetary implications (given that a six-year preparation period is necessary on the part of cities which will hold the title for one year). During the preparatory period, changes might occur at local, regional and national government level.

1. In view of this, how does the Commission consider it possible to ensure an independent approach to application procedures and the necessary preparations?
2. What measures is it envisaging to guarantee balanced political involvement, so as to ensure that matters proceed smoothly and avoid creating problems in this connection?