

**Question for written answer E-005528/2013/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D)

Subject: NGOs and civil-society organisations in Cantabria

The economic crisis currently affecting Europe is significantly reducing the support and funding channelled into non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil-society organisations.

The dismantling of Spain's NGOs and civil-society organisations through cuts in subsidies and support for their activities has led, especially in Cantabria, to the disappearance of key organisations, such as the Spanish Economic and Social Council, which brings together social stakeholders and representatives from the professional and academic worlds. The Women's Council of Cantabria and the Youth Council of Cantabria – of which over 12 500 young people were members – have also been penalised by the Cantabrian Regional Government's cuts in 2012. In January 2013, the Santander House of Solidarity closed its doors, since the Cantabrian Regional Government's general budget did not cover the cooperation agreement with the Cantabrian Council for the Coordination of NGOs for Development.

Could the Commission state what concrete measures it intends to take and what recommendations it can give Spain so that Spanish civil-society organisations continue to receive support?