

**Question for written answer E-006526/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Development Cooperation Instrument II

The Commission, the Council of the European Union and Parliament are currently involved in a three-way discussion to determine the rules for the next Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), for the period 2014-2020. Unlike in previous experiences, there has been a lack of civil society consultation on the content of the new DCI.

In particular, the opinion of civil society has barely been sought regarding two of the thematic instruments, namely 'Global Public Goods and Challenges' and 'Non-state Actors and Local Authorities'. This is all the more remarkable given that civil society is the intended recipient of the instruments.

What is more, the promotion of meaningful and structured participation from civil society organisations (CSOs) was the cornerstone of the recent Commission communication on this subject. This communication underlined the importance of CSO involvement in partner countries' domestic policies, as well as in the EU programming cycle and international processes.

In light of the above, could the Commission clarify:

1. if and when it will organise the consultations required to ensure that the thematic instruments within the DCI are taking into account the needs and concerns of civil society;
2. how it will ensure that a wide variety of CSO stakeholders (beyond those based in Brussels) are given the chance to provide input in this consultation procedure?