

**Question for written answer E-007258/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Anne Delvaux (PPE)

Subject: Allowances for international volunteering

Within the European Union, many organisations allow citizens to participate in voluntary work abroad. These programmes are of vital importance, as not only do they foster active citizenship, they also convey core European values as well as respect for cultural diversity.

However, the limited allowances towards expenses incurred during such exchanges (which are especially significant in the context of international exchanges) limit the implementation of a number of projects. While volunteers are not paid for their work, most of their expenses (travel, accommodation, etc.) are offset by various types of allowances.

These allowances are capped in accordance with national legislation, and they vary from one Member State to another within the European Union.

1. How much leeway does the Commission have with regard to increasing these fixed ceilings, which Member States' volunteering organisations think are too low?
2. What initiatives could the Commission take, with the goal of harmonising national allowances systems for volunteering programmes within the Union?
3. From an administrative point of view, what initiative could the Commission take in order to facilitate volunteering exchanges within Europe?