

**Question for written answer E-009568/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

Krzysztof Lisek (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - International cooperation between regions involving formal agreements, and settlement of disputes arising from these

Regions / provinces may engage in international activities. For example, the Polish law of 5 June 1998 on provincial government authorises provincial authorities to engage in cross-border cooperation. This kind of regional/provincial activity gives rise to practical difficulties. The status of agreements entered into by the authorities of regions / provinces with their counterparts in other countries is not clear. They also take part in the activities of cross-border regional associations in connection with which they are involved in legal transactions, pay contributions and take on commitments. The nature of their legal responsibilities when involved in international cooperation is unclear. There is also a lack of dispute-settlement regulations in connection with violations of agreements entered into with cross-border partners. In general, it is difficult to establish how legal disputes arising from international cooperation engaged in by Polish regions / provinces are settled.

1. What is the legal status of agreements entered into with regions / provinces in other countries? Are they deemed to be international agreements? What exactly are they, in legal terms?
2. What is the legal status, under EU and international law, of international regional associations such as CPMR, EUREGHA, ENCORE, etc?
3. What responsibility do regions / provinces have under the law when engaged in international cooperation? Is this of an international or a national nature, or of some other kind, and if so, which?
4. How are legal disputes arising in connection with the international cooperation of regions / provinces resolved? In the case of disputes which have been resolved, please state which these are and what methods were used.
5. If no jurisdiction has been determined by the parties to an agreement, by what jurisdiction are they governed?
6. Is mediation used in disputes involving regions / provinces? If so, please provide comprehensive details on the mediation used and the disputes resolved thereby.
7. Are there any plans to start work on formulating legal solutions for this situation?
8. What problems can arise in connection with international cooperation involving regions / provinces?