

**Question for written answer E-012015/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Liam Aylward (ALDE)

Subject: The impact and effect of the European Year of Citizens

The concept of European citizenship was introduced by the Maastricht Treaty twenty years ago. It is therefore fitting that the European Year of Citizens should be celebrated this year, so that Europeans may learn more about the EU and their rights as citizens.

According to the Eurobarometer European Union Citizenship report, published in February 2013, only 36 % of EU citizens say that they feel well informed about their rights as EU citizens. What has been done to raise public awareness of the EU and how are these efforts progressing?

On 8 May 2013 the Commission published its EU Citizenship report, setting out 12 new concrete measures to help citizens understand their rights. Were these measures considered when initiatives and activities were being planned for the European Year of Citizens? If so, can the Commission describe how this was done?

Under Article 8 of Decision No 1093/2012/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on the European Year of Citizens (2013), the Commission is called upon to submit a report on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the initiatives provided for in the Decision by 31 December 2014. What assessments are being carried out to prepare for this report?