

**Question for written answer E-013967/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Patricia van der Kammen (NI)

Subject: EUR 2.75 billion in undue regional subsidies paid out in 2012

Chapter 5 of the Annual Report from the Court of Auditors on the implementation of the 2012 budget of the European Union¹ sets out the outcomes of the investigations carried out by the Court of Auditors into (payment) transactions (in regional policy, energy and transport).

Errors were found in 49 % of samples in the investigations carried out by the Court of Auditors.

Based on the total payments of EUR 40.7 billion for regional policy, energy and transport for 2012, the estimated sum of undue regional subsidies paid out is approximately EUR 2.8 billion, which is at least 6.8 %. According to the Commission, this percentage of 6.8 % is in line with the three preceding years.

1. Is the Commission au fait with the annual report from the Court of Auditors for 2012¹?
2. Will the Commission now finally come to the conclusion that regional policy must be abolished and the funds returned to the contributing Member States so that each Member State can itself determine how the money is spent, especially as it is now evident that the percentage of regional subsidies unduly paid out has become unacceptably high over the last four years? If not, why not?

¹ http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/AR12/AR12_NL.pdf