

**Question for written answer E-000217/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)**

Subject: Level of payments as of 31 December 2013

After Draft Amending Budget No 6/2012 was approved, the Commission, at the request of the budgetary authority, presented Draft Amending Budget No 2/2013 for an amount of EUR 11.2 billion, which would allow all the legal payment obligations pending at the end of 2012, as well as those arising before the end of 2013, to be covered in the 2014 budget.

At the ECOFIN meeting of 14 May 2013, a political agreement was reached to provide the extra funding for the 2013 Budget in two tranches, with the first amounting to EUR 7.3 billion and with a commitment from Ministers to revisit the issue later in the year. However, as yet there has been no formal commitment on the remaining EUR 3.9 billion of Draft Amending Budget No 2/2013.

After the European institutions reached a political agreement on the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 on 27 June 2013, the ECOFIN Council approved the EUR 7.3 billion top-up for the 2013 EU budget on 9 July 2013 and committed to take all necessary additional steps to ensure that the EU's obligations for 2013 would be met. In this respect, on the basis of a proposal to be made by the Commission in early autumn 2014, which will draw on the latest estimates regarding payment appropriations, the Council has committed to decide on a further draft amending budget without delay to avoid any shortfall in justified payment appropriations. On 26 September 2013, the Commission issued Draft Amending Budget 8/2013 for the remaining EUR 3.9 billion. Draft Amending Budget 8/2013 and Draft Amending Budget 9/2013 (EUR 400.5 million for the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund) were approved at the meeting of the conciliation committee on the 2014 Budget. Both of these draft budgets and the 2014 EU budget were adopted by Parliament in the November 2013 plenary session.

Taking all of the above into consideration, and given the fact that the level of payments for the 2013 EU budget was EUR 5 billion lower than the Commission's payment needs as estimated in its 2013 draft budget, could the Commission provide detailed information on the level of payments received up to 31 December 2013? More precisely, could the Commission provide information on the payments received in the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December 2013, broken down by Member State and policy area/programme?