

**Question for written answer E-001019/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)**

Subject: European Capitals of Culture

European Capitals of Culture is an EU programme which has positive cultural, social and economic effects and an impact on the image of the cities concerned. The programme aims to preserve and promote the diversity of European cultures in the future and to emphasise their common characteristics. In 2013, Parliament, the Council and the Commission amended the legislative framework for the next phase of the European Capitals of Culture programme for the period 2020-2033.

European Capitals of Culture is one of the EU's most widely recognised and ambitious programmes, but one which over the years has faced a number of challenges and obstacles. The major challenges include achieving a European dimension and long-term financing to match the long-term strategy which the cities set out in their candidacies.

The cultural, social and economic plans need to be appropriately balanced and a clear vision of the European Capitals of Culture is required, which is only possible with appropriate transfer of knowledge and experience among the former Capitals of Culture. This is something that was also confirmed in the results and conclusions of Parliament's November 2013 study on the European Capitals of Culture: success strategies and long-term effects.

In view of the above, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. Does there exist at EU level any kind of financial support for former European Capitals of Culture for cities to implement long-term cultural strategies following the end of the one-year programme?
2. Are the former European Capitals of Culture eligible for funding under the Creative Europe programme?
3. How does the Commission intend to supplement the existing European dimension criteria in the European Capitals of Culture programme so that the European dimension is better taken into account and that cities fulfil their promises regarding the programme's international aspirations?
4. Is the Commission planning measures, financial incentives or expert support for the formal transfer of knowledge between former and prospective Capitals of Culture?