

**Question for written answer E-002059/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (S&D)

Subject: Internet-based selection of subsidy applications

On 13 February 2014, Wrocławskie Wydarzenia published an article under the heading 'PLN 40 million in less than a minute' which announced that the Lower Silesian Intermediary Institution (*Dolnośląska Instytucja Pośrednicząca*) had launched an internet-based selection procedure for subsidies for small and medium-sized enterprises. However, less than one minute in, the registration procedure was suspended due to exhaustion of the allocation pool. The board was allegedly motivated by the need to quickly invest the last remaining EU funds, amounting to approximately PLN 40 million. Barely 95 eligible applications were received over the internet during this short period, and only those applications will be considered.

Should such a procedure not be based on the merit of the projects, and should it not be open to, and give consideration to, all applications, not just those submitted over the internet? Is this not a form of discrimination against people who do not have access to the internet? What is the Commission's position on this issue?