

**Question for written answer E-002509/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region

In 2014 the Council presidency will be held by Greece and Italy, and it is expected that, once the Commission has submitted the necessary communication, the EU's Adriatic and Ionian strategy will be adopted sometime in the autumn. Drawing on the experience of the Baltic Sea and Danube region strategies, this is a highly significant strategy which will aim to encourage cooperation between four Member States and four countries that do not at present belong to the EU, centring on four areas, namely: 1. driving innovative maritime and marine growth; 2. connecting the region; 3. preserving and protecting the environment and improving its quality; and 4. enhancing the region's attractiveness.

How will the Commission link the use of the Structural Funds and pre-accession aid instruments to the implementation of projects falling under the EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region, and how will financial resources be allocated to that end?

Furthermore, what does the Commission think about the possibility of including Kosovo and Macedonia among the countries to be covered by the EU strategy, bearing in mind that they are neighbours of the region concerned, but do not have the privilege of being coastal states?