

**Question for written answer E-002628/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Auke Zijlstra (NI) and Lucas Hartong (NI)

Subject: Budgetary equilibrium and compliance with Article 310(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Today, Commissioner Lewandowski confirmed during a debate with the members of the Committee on Budgets that there is set to be a severe deficit in 2014 in the policy areas of cohesion and development aid. This is due in part to the enormous rise in applications at the end of 2013.

Ultimately, the bill will be footed by the net contributing Member States.

1. In the Commission's view, who is responsible for this discrepancy between the Union's income and expenditure in 2014?
2. Can the Commission indicate how often it has been necessary in the past to pay out more money than is available in the budget?
3. Does the Commission agree with the PVV that it is not permitted, pursuant to Article 310(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, for budget deficits to arise (and this imbalance is therefore actually illegal)?
4. How does the Commission monitor the incurrence of liabilities and specifically the prevention of the incurrence of liabilities which will exceed the disbursement levels?
5. Does the Commission think that the mobilisation of flexibility instruments and the use of the contingency margin is the right way to restore the budgetary equilibrium? If not, what would be the Commission's preferred approach?
6. How does the Commission intend to prevent any future violations of Article 310 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union?