

**Question for written answer E-002638/2014**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Lucas Hartong (NI)**

Subject: Granting of a subsidy to 'Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute'

In 2012, the Jacques Delors Institute received income of EUR 1 350 000, with almost half of this revenue coming from the Commission's 'Europe for Citizens Programme'<sup>1</sup>. In the light of the above:

1. Can the Commission indicate precisely how much money the Commission gave to the Jacques Delors Institute in 2012, 2013 and the current election year of 2014?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether, in addition to the Jacques Delors Institute, any other organisations, institutions or (semi-)NGOs received an EU contribution through the 'Europe for Citizens programme' in 2013 and 2014?

On 25 February 2013, Yves Bertoncini, director of the Jacques Delors Institute, wrote: 'It is hardly surprising, then, that higher-than-normal popular support is going to political parties who slam the EU. Those wishing to destroy the European integration have no positive proposals to address the problems and fears they exploit and absolutely no chance of obtaining a majority at the European Parliament.' and: 'The European election campaign must naturally draw positive attention to the opportunities and advantages of European integration, for example in terms of economic growth and employment or human exchanges. But it must not leave the fear being invoked only by "populists", whose increased popularity is both an ineffective solution and an additional threat to Europeans'.<sup>2</sup>

3. Can the Commission indicate how the 'Europe for Citizens Programme' is seeking to bring Europe closer to its citizens, and in particular the growing Eurosceptic constituent of the electorate, by way of the subsidy to this Jacques Delors Institute? Can it perhaps explain how Europe is 'for the citizens', while a significant proportion of these 'citizens' are being excluded by such statements?
4. Does the Commission believe that an organisation which it subsidises should interfere in the European elections in the abovementioned sense? If so, does it not think that it should adopt an independent and neutral approach during the elections? If not, what does it intend to do about it?
5. Does it think that the statements made by the director of this Jacques Delors Institute, which is subsidised by the Commission, are respectful of parliamentary democracy in general and in particular of the work of the Eurosceptic MEPs who have been democratically elected by the people?
6. Does it intend to take action to bring the director of the Jacques Delors Institute into line politically? If not, why not? If so, when will this be done?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.notre-europe.eu/media/annualreport2012-notreeurope-jacquesdelorsinstitute.pdf?pdf=ok> (p. 31)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.notre-europe.eu/media/anodetofear-bertoncini-ne-jdi-feb14.pdf?pdf=ok>