Question for written answer E-002651/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: International Year of the Family

The right to found a family is protected by Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Articles 7, 9 and 33 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

As declared by the United Nations General Assembly, the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 provides a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year, which are to increase cooperation at all levels on family issues and undertake concerted action to effectively strengthen and promote family-focused policies and programmes.

The economic and demographic crisis has had a much greater impact in Europe than in any other region of the world. Since only a family-friendly society can be stable and prosperous, the European Union should take political leadership in this regard.

Furthermore, the United Nations has suggested that the European Union should integrate a family perspective into the policy-making process. This would facilitate the creation of a family-friendly European legal framework even though all family policy-making bodies remain at a national level.

In light of the above, we ask the Commission to answer the following:

1.   Will the Commission integrate a family perspective into the policy-making process, to ensure that European legislation further supports family values?

2.   The United Nations General Assembly Resolution has highlighted the importance of regional and intergovernmental organisations preparing for and observing the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. What preparations have been made by the Commission in this regard?

3.   Since the European institutions are adopting legislation which affects families and its societal environment in a number of areas, does the Commission plan to establish overall guidelines for the DGs in the EC General Directorate?