

**Question for written answer E-002932/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)**

Subject: Social housing in Europe

Articles 106(2) and 107(1) TFEU exempt services of general economic interest from competition rules and the ban on aid. Recital 11 of the Commission Decision on the application of Article 106(2) states that 'undertakings in charge of social services, including the provision of social housing for disadvantaged citizens or socially less advantaged groups, who due to solvency constraints are unable to obtain housing at market conditions, should also benefit from the exemption from notification provided for in this Decision'. A secure supply of reasonably priced accommodation and a social mix is necessary for high social and environmental standards in European towns. Help in the form of social, public and cooperative housing makes this possible, but it is often dependent on aid.

Could the Commission answer the following questions.

1. Does Recital 11 reflect the Commission's definition of social, public and cooperative housing?
2. What is the exact definition of 'disadvantaged and socially less advantaged groups'?
3. Has the Commission considered the possible implications of this definition for social, public and cooperative housing in Europe? If so, what are they?
4. Does the Commission know if any public, social or cooperative housing projects have been denied aid, or should be denied aid, on the basis of this definition? If so, what are they?
5. Given the increased need for public, social housing in European cities, has the Commission considered ways in which more support could be given to social housing projects, even if they are not primarily targeted at disadvantaged groups?
6. Is the Commission drawing up any measures to guarantee a social mix in public, cooperative housing, despite the possibility that social housing may be restricted to disadvantaged and socially less advantaged groups? If so, what are they?