

**Question for written answer E-003755/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR)**

Subject: EU law and the right to participate in referendums

On 12 March 2013, the Scottish Parliament adopted the Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill which limits the franchise for the upcoming referendum on independence to voters living in Scotland, thereby excluding the large population of expatriate Scots living and working elsewhere in the European Union. The Commission has already intimated in previous responses to parliamentary questions that newly independent states would become third countries as regards membership of the EU.

Can the Commission clarify how independence would affect the rights presently enjoyed by expatriate Scots living elsewhere in the Union? Furthermore, if these rights could be affected negatively, does the Commission believe it to be legal under EU law to exclude those parties affected from the franchise of the referendum?