

**Question for written answer E-004563/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Hermann Winkler (PPE)**

Subject: The European Commission's handling of questions for written answer in accordance with Rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament

On the basis of Article 230 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in accordance with Rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, Members of the European Parliament have the right to put questions for written answer to the European Commission. In general, parliamentary questions are a central and indispensable means for Parliament and its Members to exercise their control function. For this end to be achieved, however, the European Commission must also provide answers that convey an interest in collaborating effectively with Parliament, go into detail, and set out arguments and reasons for decisions in sufficient depth. In reality, the European Commission's written answers often fall short of this requirement. The answers to Questions E-004724/2012, E-012540/2013 and E-014074/2013 may be cited here briefly by way of example. Instead, they often confine themselves to high-flown phrases and bureaucratic platitudes and create an impression of barely concealed contempt for the European Parliament and for the problems of people and businesses which these questions are supposed to bring to their attention.

Can the Commission answer the following questions in this regard:

1. What degree of importance does the Commission attach to answering parliamentary questions?
2. How does the Commission view the assertion that detailed answers to parliamentary questions are an indispensable precondition of a functioning parliamentary system at the European level?
3. Is the Commission familiar with the old 'Radio Yerevan' jokes, in which questions are asked but never given a straight answer? What is the Commission's view of the fact that Europe's residents, especially those in countries that experienced 'really existing socialism', increasingly feel reminded of them?