Question for written answer E-004568/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Claude Turmes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The attractiveness of the Luxembourg site

1. The failure of salaries in the European institutions to keep pace with the economic reality of Luxembourg has been obvious and consistent in recent years. Can the Commission provide a comparison in the development of salaries and purchasing power between its services in Luxembourg and Brussels since the entry into force of the Kinnock-Polfer agreements in 2003?

   Can the Commission provide an overview of staff movements during the same period: arrivals and departures in Luxembourg and Brussels, and transfers between these two headquarters? What positive actions has the Commission undertaken to ensure efficiency and smooth running of the ‘transardennais’ services, thus making the headquarters agreements operational and sustainable?

2. Without going as far as formal implementation of a weighting for Luxembourg, the 2014 statute recognises de facto its particular economic situation with the introduction of an index weighted in comparison with Belgium for future annual salary reviews. If that index is applied, a divergence in the Luxembourg price index will consequently introduce a weighted variation in all salaries, to be applied indiscriminately to staff in both headquarters.

   Can the Commission explain how this method could ensure respect for the statutory principle of equivalent purchasing power between Brussels and Luxembourg? With regard to salary differences, can the Commission compare the budgetary impact of such a calculation with the outcome of applying specific indices to Belgium and Luxembourg separately? If the application of such an index runs counter to statutory principles without producing any budgetary economies at all, quite the opposite in fact, how can the Commission justify the proposal?