

**Question for written answer E-005166/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Historic Centre of Porto

In the 17 years since the Historic Centre of Porto was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996, its population has continued to fall, and the general condition of its buildings has steadily deteriorated. World Heritage status has thus failed to stimulate the regeneration and repopulation that this part of the city urgently needs.

In the last 20 years, the number of people living in this area of Porto has fallen by 64%, at a rate which is three times faster than that for the city as a whole and which has speeded up over the last 10 years. In terms of the built environment, 4% of the buildings in the historic centre's Urban Regeneration Area are now in ruins, 32% are in a state of disrepair, 17% are completely empty and almost 73% either need work or need to be rebuilt. What is more, 41% of the area's infrastructure, including its roads, requires urgent renovation. Porto City Council is one of the biggest property owners in the historic centre, so that some of these empty or dilapidated buildings are in fact owned by the council.

In 2008, it was agreed that, as part of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), a specific budget would need to be set aside for the regeneration of this World Heritage site.

1. How much Community funding under the 2007-2013 Multiannual Financial Framework is still available for allocation to urban regeneration?
2. What programmes and what forms of funding under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) can be used for urban regeneration, in particular that of historic centres and World Heritage sites? What are the relevant co-financing rates?
3. Has any NSRF funding been allocated specifically for the regeneration of this UNESCO World Heritage site?
4. What are the criteria governing eligibility for these programmes?