

**Question for written answer E-003154/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE), Gabriel Mato (PPE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL), Louis-Joseph Manscour (S&D), Maurice Ponga (PPE), Sofia Ribeiro (PPE), Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D), Liliana Rodrigues (S&D) and Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)**

**Subject:** Closing down of the special Outermost Regions Unit in the Commission

Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) assigns the status of outermost regions to geographically sensitive regions, as is the case for Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte, Saint Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain). The previous Commission set up a special Outermost Regions Unit (DGA1, A, A1) under the authority of the Presidency.

The new Presidency of the Commission no longer assigns the same importance to the Outermost Regions Unit, which is now dependent on the Commissioner for Regional Policy. However, a number of restructuring measures may be implemented across the DGs and Units of the Commission, and the Outermost Regions Unit may be closed down and integrated into another service.

1. Will the Commission recognise the importance of the outermost regions status laid down in the TFEU?
2. Is the Commission really considering closing down the existing Outermost Regions Unit (DGA1, A, A1)?
3. How does the Commission seek to foster the development of the outermost regions and take into account their special status?