

**Question for written answer E-000721/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Tax incentives for residents of mountainous regions

Mountainous regions account for 30 % of the European Union's territory. They suffer heavily from depopulation and population ageing, all of which tends to result in rising unemployment and people being forced to move elsewhere.

SMEs are confronted with serious difficulties in mountainous regions on account of their lack of accessibility, connectivity, infrastructure and human resources. It is also well known that an ageing population means higher service costs.

In May 2016 Parliament asked the Commission to present a communication with an 'Agenda for EU mountainous regions' and at a later date, a white paper on the development of mountainous regions.

Stopping depopulation and equipping mountainous regions with tools for the future would, furthermore, help Europe curb the overpopulation of major cities and combat the effects of climate change.

Does the Commission believe that offering people living in these mountainous regions tax incentives would be the best way of helping people and businesses to remain there?

If so, will it so advise Member States?