

**Question for written answer E-005544/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Funding projects aimed at countering Euroscepticism

On 14 August 2017, the British newspaper *The Times* revealed that the Commission had spent more than EUR 500 000 on projects aimed at 'countering Euroscepticism' and that it intended to draw up a 'long-term strategy' to counteract any hostility towards the EU. This funding was in fact part of a budget line of nearly EUR 2.9 million which aims to fund projects across the EU with a view to 'stem criticism in a useful, constructive and positive approach towards European integration'.

Even though the Commission is spending nearly EUR 3 million to teach people about the EU, the programme intends to show people 'the cost of not being part of the EU'.

Worse still, EUR 14 500 was spent on a British project in Essex which aimed to challenge the results of the Brexit referendum and, therefore, democratic expression.

Does the Commission intend to cut this purely political budget line at a time when people are being subjected to sometimes unsustainable austerity?

For the sake of equality, does the Commission plan to grant equivalent funding to both Eurosceptic projects and projects which promote national sovereignty?