Question for oral answer O-000015/2013
to the Council
Rule 115
Danuta Maria Hübner
on behalf of the Committee on Regional Development

Subject: A macro-regional strategy for the Alps

The regions of the Alpine Space have repeatedly expressed their will for an Alpine strategy to effectively address common challenges facing the entire Alpine arc and to exploit its considerable potential more consistently. On 29 June 2012, the Conference of the Alpine Regions, in its initiative paper, clearly expressed its desire for the implementation of a macro-regional strategy for the Alps. This paper was adopted unanimously. In its September 2011 publication entitled ‘European territorial cooperation: building bridges between people’, the Commission underlines the importance of the two existing macro-regions in terms of environmental issues, tourism, transport and energy. Furthermore, Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union underlines the need to promote harmonious development of the various regions of the EU and states that particular attention must be paid to rural areas and mountain regions.

Accordingly, a macro-region of the Alps would not only improve the functionality of existing structures, but also ensure the sustainable implementation of European legislation and of the Europe 2020 strategy.

1. In this connection, has the Council analysed the possibility of a macro-regional strategy for the Alps with a view to increasing territorial cohesion in this area and strengthening the close cooperation between the regions concerned?

2. Does the Council intend to ask the Commission to draw up such a strategy, with a view to overcoming regional differences within the Alpine Space and tackling common challenges in terms of environmental protection, transport and demographic change?

3. Is the Council considering asking the Commission to draw up any other macro-regional strategies in the near future?

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