Question for oral answer O-000016/2013
to the Commission
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. Is the Commission considering the possibility of developing a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine space in the short term?

2. What degree of importance does the Commission place on a macro-regional strategy for the Alps?

3. What is the Commission’s approach to future macro-regional strategies that may emerge in other parts of Europe?

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