

**Question for oral answer O-000128/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 115

Doris Pack

on behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education

Subject: State aid to cinema

In its revised draft communication of 30 April 2013 on state aid for films and other audiovisual works, the Commission stresses that, with regard to territorial spending, it would be appropriate to exclude discrimination based on the origin of the goods and services involved in film production in the context of managing public aid to cinema and the audiovisual sector.

1. In the current context of economic, financial and budgetary crisis, how does the Commission, basing itself on an item of 2009 case law which it had never considered before, not even in 2012, explain such an exclusion, which will weaken the financing of European cinema and drastically limit the number of films on offer and, in the long term, the number of jobs in the audiovisual sector?
2. Could the Commission justify its position, given that such a position does not ensure a balance between, on the one hand, the principles of the single market and, on the other, general interest and the economic specificities of the audiovisual sector?
3. Given that the Treaty has remained unchanged, what are the Commission's reasons for going back over:
 - its position on the state aid schemes that it has assessed so far, and;
 - its main principles as laid down in its 2001 cinema communication, as well as on its 2012 communication, in particular as regards territorial spending obligations?
4. What further measures does the Commission intend to take in order to maintain a strong and competitive European audiovisual sector, which would help to promote the cinematographic cultural diversity of the Member States within the Union?

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Deadline for reply: 18.11.2013