

**Question for written answer P-003118/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Budget to offset the Outermost Regions' (OR) additional costs as part of the future cohesion policy

The Commission's proposal for the future cohesion policy recommends that the planned budget for additional funding for the ORs identified in Article 349 of the Treaty and the NUTS level 2 regions fulfilling the criteria given in Article 2 of Protocol No 6 of the Treaty of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to be paid for the period 2014-2020 should total EUR 925 680 000.

This proposal entails a considerable decrease of almost 40% in relation to the budget for offsetting the disadvantages and additional costs facing these regions for the period 2007-2013, which was based on an amount of EUR 35 per inhabitant per year.

The specific challenges facing the ORs and the isolated or sparsely populated regions of Austria, Finland and Sweden have not changed. They are permanent constraints, which, according to a recent report by former Spanish Minister Pedro Solbes, cause the ORs to incur sizeable additional costs that significantly impair their economic development. The recent unrest in protest against the high cost of living in the French ORs also bears witness to this.

Can the Commission therefore state the reasons for its decision to reduce this budget by almost 40% and its decision to no longer base it on the fixed amount of EUR 35 per inhabitant per year?

Can the Commission also say how it intends to allocate this budget over the 2014-2020 period between the different ORs identified in Article 349 of the Treaty and the NUTS level 2 regions fulfilling the criteria in Article 2 of Protocol No 6 of the Treaty of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden?